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SUBJECT National Negro Congress

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-3633-ART

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK	5/22/42	10/24;11/15; ~~12/13/41;1/17~~ 2/7,8;5/13,15/42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: X [redacted] b7D

abolition of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights was approved and JAMES FITZGERALD, speaking for the Negro Commission of the Central Committee recommended the formation of the National Negro Congress. The political bureau of the Communist Party sent out instructions to begin work on the Congress immediately. The first Congress was held in Chicago, Illinois, February, 1936, the second in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in October, 1937 and the third in Washington, D.C., April, 1940. At the third Congress, A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, who had been used by the Communists as a front man, objected to the activities of the Communist Party and MAX YERGAN was elected president. Many of the non-Communists and liberal organizations withdrew their support of the Congress as a result of RANDOLPH'S denunciation of this group. Names of affiliate organizations set out. Two branches of the Congress are located in New York City known as the Manhattan Council and the Brooklyn Council. Known officers of the councils set out. Purposes and activities of the organization as reported by informants set out.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 22, 1941 at New York City b7C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible]

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

ENCL.

235

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
Bureau (Enc.6)
Captain R.C. MacFall, [illegible]
Colonel S.V. Constant, G-2
New York

MAY 23 1942

FIVE

Partially deceased
Dupe - [illegible]
61-6728-57
6-13-72

3-21-4

5

b7C,D

DETAILS: [redacted] whose identity has previously been made known to the Bureau, advised the writer that the suggestion for the formation of the National Negro Congress was made by [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] the suggestion to build a National Negro Congress grew out of the failure of the Communist Party to build the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Negro Labor Congress, that were supposed to be effective transmission organizations for Communism among negros.

b7D

Concerning the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, [redacted] advised that it was based on the program of the Communist International on the negro question. The purpose of the organization was the fight for equal rights for negroes jointly with the simultaneous effort to form a revolutionary overthrow of the land owners in the black belt and the establishment of an autonomous negro government in the black belt. The revolutionary overthrow of the white landlords in the black belt was to be accomplished by organizing white and negro farmers and workers to fight against lynching, the poll tax, Jim Crowism and the right to ownership of the land.

b7D

[redacted] the aim of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights was the confiscation of the landed property of the white land owners and capitalists, to unite the black belt into an autonomous state or government with the right to secede from the rest of the United States and the right of this new state to determine its own form of government. He stated that the membership in this organization was never more than several thousand nationally, mostly party members and sympathizers.

b7D

[redacted] abolition of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights was approved and [redacted] recommended the formation of the National Negro Congress. [redacted] the Communist Party sent out instructions to [redacted] to begin work on the Congress immediately, by getting together liberals and sympathizers to form committees for local conferences

and in these conferences to lay the foundation for a National Congress. He stated that during 1935, local converences were held in a number of the larger cities in the United States. He stated that the first National Negro Congress was held in Chicago, Illinois in February, 1936 and was attended by several thousand persons, including approximately 912 delegates.

[redacted] elect A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, a negro liberal, as head of this organization, to act as a front for the Communists. He further related that every effort was made by the Party to make the first Congress a success; [redacted] The most capable Communists were placed on all Congress committees and given key positions in discussion groups to guarantee control.

Informant advised that he was present at the National Negro Congress in Chicago, where he noted the presence of [redacted] HENRY JOHNSON of Chicago, national organizer of the International Worker's Order; JOHN P. DAVIS of Washington, D.C., present national secretary of the National Negro Congress; COLUMBUS ALSTON of New York, president of the Young People's Protective League; ROSA RASIDE, New York, organizer of the Domestic Worker's Union; NEVA EVAN, Chicago, organizer of the Domestic Worker's Union; THYRA EDWARDS, Chicago, social worker; RICHARD B. MOORE, New York, organizer for the International Labor Defense; DR. ARNOLD DONOWA, New York; E. D. AMIS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, [redacted] MERRILL WORK, New York; MARTY RICHARDSON, Jacksonville, Florida; LAYTON WESTON, St. Louis, Missouri, president of the Dining Car Cooks and Waiters' Union, American Federation of Labor; A. W. BERRY, New York; ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; EDWARD STRONG, vice-president of the American Youth Congress; JAMES W. FORD, New York, [redacted] MAX YERGAN, secretary of the International Committee on African affairs; ALL JACKSON, Montgomery, Alabama; HARRY HAYWOOD, [redacted] LOUISE THOMPSON, New York, national organizer of the International Workers' Order; BEN J. DAVIS, JR., New York, member of the legal staff of the International Labor Defense; ANGELO HERNDON, New York; MANNING JOHNSON, New York; MAUD WHITE, Cleveland, Ohio and AUDLEY MOORE, New York.

[redacted] the second National Negro Congress gave impetus to the formation of local councils of the National Negro Congress and the most successful ones were set up in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; New York, New York and Boston, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri and Los Angeles, California.

[redacted] prior to the third National Negro Congress meetings of the national executive board of the National Negro

[illegible] marked by bitter criticism on the part of A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH of the work and activities of the Communist Party. He objected to the Communists packing the Congress with party delegates from all theauxiliary organizations of the party. He was also opposed to linking the Congress to the Congress of Industrial Organizations and making JOHN L. LEWIS the central labor figure in the Congress.

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[redacted]

[redacted] advised that at the third National Negro Congress, RANDOLPH urged purging the Congress of the Communists, advising that such a move would be necessary if the Congress was to realize its objectives. Informant relates that, inasmuch as the majority of the delegates present were Communists, he failed to get the necessary support and, after stating his position, resigned from the Congress. b7D

[redacted] by stating that, as a result of RANDOLPH'S resignation from theCongress, many of the large negro non-Communist groups and liberal organizations withdrew their support, greatly weakening the Congress. He stated that prior to the split, the Congress was supported by such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, New York John Council of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and numerous civic, fraternal and religious groups and many trade union locals of the American Federation of Labor. b7D

[redacted] related that, since the split in the National Negro Congress, it has lost practically all its liberal and non-Communist supporters and in most cities, it has dwindled down to the Party and Party controlled groups. He advised that he is not closely connected with the National Negro Congress at the present time but, to the best of his knowledge, they presently have local councils in Detroit, Michigan; Mobile, Alabama; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Los Angeles, California and Cleveland, b7D

Ohio. [redacted] advised that at the present time there are two local councils of the National Negro Congress in New York City, the Manhattan Council with headquarters at 143 West 125th Street, New York City and the Brooklyn Council, located at 420 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. He furnished the writer with literature of the National Negro Congress, which reflects that the present officers of the Manhattan Council are HOPE R. STEVENS, president; NAOMI KORNACKER, executive secretary and ETHEL RAINFORD, administrative secretary. He advised that the New York Councils were affiliated with the following Communist Party controlled and dominated organizations: International Workers' Order, International Labor Defense, Finnish Workers' Federation, State County and Municipal Workers, C.I.O.; Fur Dyers' Union, A.F.L.; Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance, A.F.L.; Hotel and Club Employees, Local 6, A.F.L.; Furriers' Union, C.I.O.; Factory Employees, Local 302, A.F.L.; Cooks and Kitchen Employees, Local 89, A.F.L.; the Teachers' Union, (which was recently expelled from the American Federation of Labor on charges of Communism); the Spanish Workers' Club and the Communist Party. b7D

[redacted] report entitled, "Material for the Negro Commission, 10th Party Convention" dated May, 1938. [redacted] report is being furnished to the Bureau with copies of this report. A perusal of the report reflects that, according to the Negro Commission, the main problem facing the Negro is the breaking down of resistance, among the white people, against the negro, in order to achieve unity. They point out that the main link now to be seized is that of employment discrimination or limitation in employment opportunities. Methods of working among the negro people in order to have them recognize this problem was discussed in the report. The American Federation of Labor was attacked because of its bar against the accepting of negro laborers in the union. They commented on the Congress of Industrial Organizations and stated that that union had organized more than one quarter of a million negroes in less than two years. b7D

The report reflects that the National Negro Congress has come forward as a Herculean helmsman in building unity of action among the negro population. Among other things, in regard to the Congress, they pointed out that Communists in the trade unions should consult the educational committee of their unions and arrange to include in their educational program discussions on the National Negro Congress and the trade unions. The report points out that the National Negro Congress has encouraged a campaign to secure sponsors in the various progressive organizations, trade unions and clubs.

[redacted] writer obtained a report by JOHN P. DAVIS, national secretary. This report is reported to have been given b7D

before the 1,285 delegates who attended the third National Negro Congress at Washington, D.C. in April, 1940. This material is being furnished the Bureau with copies of this report. b7D

[redacted] obtained a pamphlet entitled, "To Delegates of the Third National Negro Congress", signed by JOHN P. DAVIS, National secretary. This pamphlet sets out the resolutions of the Congress, the objects of the organization, and lists the officers.

The objects of the organization, as set out in this pamphlet, are as follows:

"1. To secure the full rights of citizenship for the Negro people as guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution, through removal of the poll tax and all other forms of unconstitutional restrictions upon the right to vote.

2. To secure the right of the Negro people to be free from jim-crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching and mob violence and to work for the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation.

3. To secure employment for the Negro people free from all manner of job discrimination by governmental agencies and private industry.

4. To promote the cause of trade unionism among Negroes and to work for the organization of Negro workers into trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other trade union members.

5. To work for effective and adequate local, state and national programs for meeting the educational, health and housing needs of the people without discrimination with respect to geographical areas; and, to provide for security against old age, unemployment and want.

6. To foster the cultural development and expression of the Negro people; to spread the truth regarding their traditions and contributions to American democracy; and, to combat all falsifications and distortions of their historic role in American life.

7. To promote the cause of peace; to aid the liberation of the oppressed peoples of Africa, West Indies, China, India, and Latin America, whose aspirations for freedom are one with ours; to oppose imperialist wars and oppression and to strive for the realization of a genuine brotherhood of man in our time.

8. To promote the spirit of unity and cooperation between the Negro and white people in a common struggle for their mutual welfare and advancement."

A list of the names of persons elected to offices at the National Negro Congress and considerable information about each, as reflected in this pamphlet are set out as follows:

President: MAX YERGAN, New York - Dr. Yergan is director of the International Committee on African Affairs and a member of the faculty of the City College of New York. For 17 years he was South African Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1934 for the 'most distinguished service to the Negro People' in that year.

Vice-Presidents:

HENRY JOHNSON, Illinois - Mr. Johnson is Assistant National Director of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee. Under his leadership 20,000 Negro packinghouse workers have been brought into the trade union. Prior to this work Mr. Johnson was a national organizer among Negro steel workers.

REV. WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN, District of Columbia. - Rev. Jernagin is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. He is national president of the Sunday School and Baptist Young Peoples Union with more than one million members.

MRS. FAY ALLEN, California - Mrs. Allen is president of the Los Angeles Council of the National Negro Congress. She is a member of the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, having been elected to this office by 117,000 votes; the highest number of votes ever polled for a Negro candidate for public office.

REV. OWEN WHITFIELD, Missouri - Rev. Whitfield is international vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. He is a member of the Commission appointed by the Governor of Missouri to investigate conditions among workers. He was the leader of the famous 'roadside strike' of 4,000 Negro and white evicted tenant farmers which brought national attention to the problems of the sharecropper.

DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS, Pennsylvania - Dr. Lewis is president of the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress. He has been active in civic work in Philadelphia for more than a quarter of a century.

"DR. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Massachusetts - Dr. Simmons is one of the leaders of Negro Congress work in New England. He is an outstanding medical practitioner.

National Secretary: JOHN P. DAVIS, District of Columbia - Mr. Davis is a graduate of Bates College and Harvard Law School. He was executive secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery for three years; and has been national secretary of the Congress since its beginning. He is Vice-President of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare.

National Treasurer: U. SIMPSON TATE, District of Columbia.- Mr. Tate has had ten years experience as an accountant with the National Benefit Life Insurance Company. He is a graduate of Lincoln University and secured his M.A. from the Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania. At present he is a finance officer at the National Office of the United Federal Workers of America.

Financial Secretary: JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Georgia - Mr. Bostick attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. He is an accountant and bookkeeper by profession; he has served for two years as treasurer of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress.

National Youth Secretary: LOUIS BURNHAM, New York - Mr. Burnham is president of the Harlem Youth Federation; graduate of the City College of New York."

The names of the executive board and their location as to states, as reflected by the above pamphlet, is also being set out, as follows:

Alabama
EDWARD A. STRONG, Birmingham

Connecticut
MISS BARBARA RI[illegible], South Norwalk
DONALD WHEELDIN, Hartford

Illinois
MISS HAZEL HAYES, Chicago
HENRY JOHNSON, Chicago
WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, CHICAGO
HERBERT M. SMITH, Chicago

California
MRS. FAY ALLEN, Los Angeles
MR. ROBERT S. ROBINSON, Los Angeles

District of Columbia
JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Washington
MISS THELMA DALE, Washington
JOHN P. DAVIS, Washington
WILLIAM ALPHEUS HUNTON, Washington
WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN, Washington
JEROME OSBORNE, Washington
U. SIMPSON TATE, Washington
SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS, Washington

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Indiana
GEORGE KIMBLEY, Gary
EDWARD J. WINTERS, South Bend

Massachusetts
ATTORNEY J. S. R. BOURNE, Boston
DR. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Boston

Missouri
OWEN WHITFIELD, St. Louis

New York
LOUIS BURNHAM, New York City
CHARLES COLLINS, New York City
JAMES W. FORD, New York City
THOMAS JASPER, New York City
MISS NAOMI T. KORNACKER, New York City
LOUIS FANNING, Brooklyn
MALCOLM MARTIN, Brooklyn
MRS. MILDRED H. MEYERS, New York City
WALTER MOARK, New York City
JOHN W. ROBINSON, New York City
MISS JESSIE SCOTT, Brooklyn
MAX YERGAN, New York City

South Carolina
JAMES A. BRIER, Greenville

Virginia
W. H. CROCKER, Suffolk
JAMES JACKSON, Richmond
JAMES R. JOHNSON, Roanoke

Maryland
H. W. PATTERSON, Baltimore

Michigan
HODGES MASON, Detroit
LeBRON SIMMONS, Detroit

New Jersey
MRS. G. A. ROBINSON, Orange

Ohio
HERMAN BROWN, Akron

Pennsylvania
MISS GOLDIE ERVIN, Philadelphia
B. F. GIBSON, Pittsburgh
FRED HOLMES, Pittsburgh
WILLIAM JASON, Philadelphia
CHARLES A. LEWIS, Philadelphia

Rhode Island
MISS ETHEL BROWN, Providence
HENDRIK M. VAN WEESTEN, Providence

Texas
MASON SMITH, Waco

This pamphlet is being forwarded to the Bureau with copies of this report.

670

[redacted]

[redacted] e writer obtained three sheets

of mimeographed material entitled, "Press Information", the first paragraph of which reflects that a formula for proposed joint action between Labor's Non-Partisan League and the National Negro Congress was announced by the national headquarters of the League in Washington, D.C. The formula was drawn up in the conference between national chairman JOHN L. LEWIS and E. L. OLIVER, executive vice-president, representing the League and MAX YERGAN, national vice-president and JOHN P. DAVIS, national secretary, representing the Negro Congress. This material is dated May 7, 1940.

The proposed agreement, which is not being copied into this report, is reflected on the pages obtained. This material and the letter mentioned in the above paragraph are being made part of this file in the New York Field Office.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] the activities of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

[redacted] this was a meeting of what they referred to as their "Jobs Campaign Committee" and that the main discussion was relative to picketing of R. H. Macy's Department Store in order to force them to hire negro employees. [redacted] the demonstration was to be carried out on November 19; that they expected to have about 5,000 persons present and it was agreed that 100 of the demonstrators were to assemble at the office of the Congress and march in a body to the store and in that way, they might pick up a lot of well-wishers along the way, who would be going home from work. Prior to the picketing, the members were to distribute circulars advertising the demonstration. [redacted] in addition to picketing, members were urged to send a letter, card, telegram or make a telephone call to R. H. Macy's Department Store, urging them to employ negro sales and office workers immediately. [redacted] several copies of the circular, which copies are being made part of the file of the New York Field Division. b7D

[redacted] was present at R. H. Macy's Department Store in Herald Square, New York, on the evening of November 19, 1941, when the demonstration of the Jobs Committee of the National Negro Congress was supposed to take place. [redacted] the demonstration was an entire "flop". [redacted] the only members of the Council present were MR. HORACE MARSHALL, chairman of the Jobs Campaign Committee and approximately twenty-five others. MR. MARSHALL entered the store and came out later, announcing that he had talked to a MR. ATKINSON of R. H. Macy's and that the matter was going to be settled by negotiation. b7D

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that immediately after the declaration of war by the United States, the Manhattan Council came out strongly in favor of the Administration's program in their struggle against the Axis powers. He furnished the writer with a circular entitled, "Negroes Unite for Victory and Freedom", issued by the Manhattan Council and the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress, urging the negro people to unite their strength to guarantee the nation final victory. This circular is being made a part of the file of the New York Field Office. b7D

[redacted] the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress took up the fight against negro discrimination in our defense efforts [redacted] He stated that this meeting was a general protest meeting against the government's unfair attitude towards the negroes in the defense program. He stated that Representative MARCANTONIO and the REV. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. spoke on the program. He stated that the subject of discussion was the refusal of the Red Cross to accept blood from the negro blood donors. He also stated that Judge JAMES WATSON spoke on the program and criticized the government for discrimination against the negroes in the defense industries. b7D

[redacted] He stated that HOPE STEVENS presided at the meeting and that the following persons spoke on the program: NAOMI KORNACKER, THOMAS PAGE, [illegible] WESTON, [illegible] GOSHAL, [illegible] NEUGEBAUR. [redacted] KORNACKER, PAGE and WESTON spoke against discrimination of the negro and called for mixed regiments of white and black soldiers. [redacted] GOSHAL, NEUGEBAUR and STEVENS spoke on the problem of the people in India and Africa, claiming that if the able-bodied men of these countries were

properly armed they could guarantee the defeat of the Axis. HOLE STEVENS expressed disappointment that only seventy persons attended the meeting, after arrangements had been made for seven hundred.

[redacted] b7D from the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, in which they made reference to the fact that the Providence Fair Employment Practice Committee was holding hearings in the New York area on February 16 and 17, 1942. The letter advised that as patriotic citizens it is their duty to help their government and see that no discrimination exists in employment; that the National Negro Congress has delegated a committee to work on the matter and that they are preparing cases to be presented to the committee. The reader was requested to report any knowledge of cases of discrimination to the committee.

[redacted] b7D the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress started issuing a pamphlet entitled the "Negro Champion", first copy of which was issued in September, 1941. [redacted] copies of the pamphlet for the months of September, November and December, which are being forwarded to the Bureau with copies of this report.

The September issue of the "Negro Champion" sets out the aims of the Council as follows:

"1. Full citizenship rights for the Negro
2. End Lynchings and Discrimination
3. Jobs on an equal basis.
4. All Negroes into trade unions on basis of full equality
5. National Health, Housing, and Social Security Programs
6. Spread knowledge of Negro culture and history
7. All aid to Ethiopia, China, Great Britain and the Soviet Union
8. Destroy Hitlerism at home and abroad "

The files of the New York Field Office reflect that on February 11, 1942, Special Agent [redacted] of the New York Field Office, obtained a photographic copy of the confidential memorandum of the American Youth Congress, 230 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This confidential memorandum is directed by the American Youth Congress to the United Office and Professional Workers of America and bore the title, "The Plan of Cooperation Between the American Youth Congress and the United Office and Professional Workers of the World." It is noted that this memorandum reflects that a cooperating organization of the American Youth Congress is the National Negro Youth Council of the National Negro Congress. In this connection, it is to be noted that [redacted] has advised the writer that the National Negro Youth Congress and the Southern Youth Congress are affiliated with the National Negro Congress and were organized by the b7C b7D

Communist Party of the United States.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D, K

Enclosures - to the Bureau:

1-copy of report, entitled, "Material for the Negro Commission, 8th Party Convention".

2-copy of report, by JOHN P. DAVIS, national secretary, entitled, "The National Negro Congress Reports to the People".

3-pamphlet entitled, "To Delegates to the Third National Negro Congress".

4-copy of September, 1941 issue of "Negro Champion".

5-copy of November, 1941, issue of "Negro Champion".

6-copy of December, 1941, issue of "Negro Champion".

100-38[illegible]

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York, New York

b7D

Will keep in contact with [redacted] for further information relative to the activities of this organization and make appropriate investigation in order to be kept advised of their activities.

PENDING

THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

By
John P. Davis
National Secretary

This report was given Saturday, April 27, 1940, at the United States Department of Labor Auditorium before 1,2[illegible] delegates to the Third National Negro Congress. The major portions of the report were broadcast nationally over the red network of NBC - Sunday, April 28, 1940.

75092

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates;

Five years ago this May, a relatively small group of men and women met together in Washington to plan the first National Negro Congress. They issued a Call and 1.000 delegates came to Chicago in 1936; and, on a common meeting ground gave organized expression to the deepest human need of the Negro masses. That Congress established the National Negro Congress. Again in Philadelphia, in October of 1937, representatives of more than eleven hundred organizations joined hands in the constructive effort to further consolidate the unity of the Negro people together with the progressive friends of Negro freedom in the struggle for equality of opportunity and for the democratic rights of the Negro.

And now again, for the third time, in the Capital of the nation, we have come together in even greater number to carry out the same objectives.

In this hall today are the finest creative artists in America. The coal miners, marine workers, food workers, sharecroppers are here. From all industries throughout the land they are here. Fresh from a magnificent Fourth Southern Negro Youth Congress, the best representatives of Negro youth in the south are here. Elected representatives of city, state and federal government are with us. Leaders of Labor, of the church, of great civic and fraternal bodies - Negro and white - sit in this hall side by side. From California, Texas, Massachusetts, Illinois - from nearly every state in the Union - there have come delegates to the Capital of our country to give a common voice to the needs and demands of the Negro people.

What distinguishes this Congress from all others is that today the Negro people are not fighting alone. They are invited to unite with broad strong labor and liberal forces who have joined with us here in one common struggle. This was indicated in the historic address of John L. Lewis Friday night. If I know the sentiment of these delegates of my people we welcome the proffered hand of labor tendered to us by Mr. Lewis that night; and we are glad to cooperate with labor and all other forces for justice, freedom and a better life for Negro people.

Why are we here today. To promote and extend unity of action of the Negro people together with the young and old, the farmers, the workers, in the common objective of putting an end to poverty and the denial of even the simplest democratic rights which large masses of the American people are victims.

When we speak of this as the Third National Negro Congress we are not forgetting that other Negro men and women before us strove to achieve the same unity which we seek today. As we look back into our history we remember similar Congresses in 1831, in 1843, in 1856, in 1883 - where Negro men and women as we here today - joined in a common cause against racial oppression. The names of Richard Allen, Frederick Douglass, Martin Delaney, Mack Henson and a host of others associated with these strivings for unity form a rich part of our cultural heritage. And it is upon the foundation of unity laid by these heroes of our past that we must build today. However, victory is within our grasp.

As Frederick Douglass, in a national convention of the Negro people held in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1883, said:

"We are here because there is power in numbers and in union; because they are more than the few; because the voice of a whole people, oppressed by a common injustice is far more likely to command attention and exert an influence on the public mind than the voice of single individuals and isolated organizations; because coming together from all parts of the country the members of a National Convention have the means of gaining a more comprehensive knowledge of the general situation and may, therefore, fairly be presumed to conceive more clearly and express more fully and wisely the policy necessary for them to pursue....."

VICTORIES WON IN THE PAST

We are here because we have faith in the principle of unity, and because our own experiences have seen such unity accomplish many victories for our people. In the past three years the National Negro Congress and its many local councils have organized and united and inspired many thousands of our people to organize and struggle. Where the trade union movement has opened its doors to the Negro worker,

as in the great steel, auto and packing house industries, we have seen the Negroes flock by the thousands into the ranks of organized labor. In the past three years a half million Negro workers have joined the ranks of organized Labor. Today, as a result of these struggles, these workers are buying homes, furniture, taking vacations, sending their children to school, and their increased earning power has strengthened the position of the Negro professional and businessman. For these organized workers there is greater job security.

Our Negro Congress Council has fought and won concrete battles against mass arrests and police brutality. Here in the Capital of the nation our local Council is putting an effective end to police killings of Negroes. Instead of a record of one Negro killed by the police every three months for a period of twelve years, we can report now there has been but one such fatality in the last 22 months. This was done by the organized protest of hundreds of workers from scores of organizations under the leadership of the Negro Congress, securing 20,000 signatures to a petition to end police brutality. It was done by the sustained and pitiless publicity brought to bear on such crimes by the Congress Council. In Chicago and other cities the same kind of victories have been won by the same kind of hard work. The Congress has forced the Department of Justice at least to take the first steps in action against peonage in the deep South and the nationwide campaign of terror of the Ku Klux Klan. If we have achieved no signal victories here as yet the future is much brighter because of the Congress action. On the very eve of the opening of this Congress we have forced for the first time the opening up of federal recreational facilities such as the Washington Tourist Camp to the Negro people.

Slanders against us in the school book, in such motion pictures as Gone With The Wind, the radio and the press, have been met with the united protest of our Congress. Witness, if you please, the fact that in Boston two slanderous history texts have by our action been withdrawn from public schools and no longer poison the minds of white children against the Negro people. Witness, if you please, the carrying through of programs to develop the artistic expression of young Negro

artists by our Councils in Oakland, California, Philadelphia, Detroit and Boston.

Our Congress has indeed become a powerful factor for the advancement of our people.

But neither our Congress as a whole nor its local Councils have failed to realize that these successes are but beginnings.

We understand that greater struggles and harder work face us.

THE STRUGGLES AHEAD

We must find a way to secure jobs for nearly three million unemployed Negroes. This is an issue which hunger will not let us evade. Public utilities, which take from the Negro people millions of dollars each year do not have jobs for Negro boys and girls. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company employs 270,000 persons, but nowhere are Negro girls employed. One million men and women are on the pay rolls of the federal government, but the number of Negroes who have jobs above the grade of custodial and unskilled worker is less than one percent. Normal opportunities to work are denied by private industry and the federal government. We shall not starve. We have the right to demand jobs on WPA, adequate relief and social services. It is our right, it is our duty, to resist the wholesale slashing of WPA rolls (which has already driven nearly 300,000 jobless Negro workers back to the breadline) even though these cuts come at the suggestion of the President of the United States himself. The reductions of the administration in WPA, CCC, relief and in other social service vital to the people in this critical period, are particularly inimical to the welfare of the underprivileged Negro families of the land.

Three million Negro people in the South are denied the right to vote. This was not ordained by God. It is a man-made evil, and we condemn it as such. Our Congress has the duty to say to the politicians of the country that no party will win the four million Negro votes in the North which does not guarantee the ballot to the voteless Negroes in the South. This means repeal the poll tax laws in this session of Congress.

Lynching curses our land. Congress after Congress has refused to pass

ne Anti-Lynching Bill. President after President has been silent in the face of his national crime. Our Congress must demand the passage of this act now. We are here to act as a mass lobby for the Anti-Lynching Bill.

Negro men have been clubbed. Negro women have been whipped. Negro children have been terrorized, as a wave of Klan terror sweeps the nation today. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice, but the criminals remain unpunished. Hundreds of Negro farmers have been held in peonage and semi-slavery in the South. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice, but the criminals remain unpunished. We meet in this Congress to charge the present administration with strict accountability for the protection of the lives and safety of Negro people.

WE CONDEMN MARTIN DIES

Martin Dies, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, has shielded the Ku Klux Klan from investigation. Who is this Martin Dies? What kind of democracy does he espouse? Martin Dies comes from a state where poll tax laws and lily-white primaries effectively disfranchise the Negro people, and a large section of white workers as well. Martin Dies comes from Texas, where mob rule, lynch law, and Klan violence are characteristic. This man from Texas holds his seat in Congress by virtue of the votes of less than five percent of the voting population in his district. He voted against the Anti-Lynching Bill. He is opposed to labor legislation. He voted to slash WPA appropriations and to curtail vital social services affecting the health and welfare of the people.

Martin Dies is not the one to teach us Americanism. The Negro people have earned their Americanism from Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. It is time that the masses of the Negro people should understand the role of Martin Dies. He is the front man for American reaction. Just as the Ku Klux Klan tars and feathers its victims, so the Dies Committee smears labor organizations, youth organizations, Negro organizations and other progressive organizations fighting for the welfare and democratic rights of the American people.

But we can [illegible] fight against the reaction of Martin Dies by refusing to be trapped by the wave of red hysteria which Dies has created. We are the ones to decide the policies and the composition of our Congress. This Congress will not substitute [illegible] judgment of Martin Dies for the democratically registered wishes of the members of this organization. This is real democracy. This is Americanism. The National Negro Congress cannot, must not and will not take this road. The road we take is the road which demands the immediate dissolution of the subversive and un-American Dies Committee.

STAY OUT OF WAR

For the Negro people today nothing is more important than their calm determination to keep firmly to the path which leads to economic justice and complete citizenship rights in our democracy. This is a difficult task at a time when war rages in Europe and the mongers of war are preparing a blood bath for the millions of the youth of our nation. We shall do well to heed the thrice-repeated warning of John L. Lewis against "ventures abroad", while there is growing misery at home. We Negro people who suffer most from the economic maladies of depression and unemployment, who are deprived of the simplest democratic rights, who are subjected to human indignity and oppression are fully aware that involvment in this war is no solution to our problems. We remember the riots, the lynchings, the hatreds which accompanied our participation in the last imperialist war. We do not want these things to happen again. We want peace.

We want peace for ourselves and America. We want peace and freedom for the people of India - of China - of Africa. We want peace for the world! The position which our Congress should take on the question of war should be to oppose loans, credits, arms or any other aid direct or indirect to either side of the belligerents. We speak out firmly against aid to Nazi Germany. But we speak out with equal firmness against aid to imperialist Britain and imperialist France. The administration is taking sides in this imperialist conflict. Its actions [illegible] neutrality and our peace. We must join with labor, we must join with youth to

sist upon an end to this disastrous policy.

What do the Negro people want? Not war - but peace; not guns - but jobs; not death - but life; not reaction - but democratic rights. That is why there is an increasing groundswell in the ranks of labor saying the "YANKS ARE NOT COMING". That is why the youth of our nation are declaring "there is no future in Flanders field." That is why the Negro people are saying we shall not die in the war of American imperialism. We have a war of our own against hunger, against lynching, against peonage, against Jim Crowism, for the right to vote and the right to work. The enemy of American democracy is at home. Let us fight that enemy here.

The attempt is being made to establish as a guage of one's loyalty to the United States that of willingness to follow American imperialism in whichever direction it finds it necessary to go - be it toward war or toward reaction. I, for one, cannot accept this as a test of my Americanism. And I believe the overwhelming majority of the Negro people join me in this position.

I refuse to believe the Negro people can be led by American imperialism into an unjust, imperialist war abroad.

War is a convenient diversion to needs of the people, as excellently pointed out by Mr. Lewis Friday night. One of the chief diversions being practised by the makers of war, by American reactionaries, by reactionaries everywhere, is the attempt to create diversion by organizing and inciting a war against the Soviet Union.

I have visited the Soviet Union. I have talked to the Soviet people. I have witnessed their accomplishments and achievements. I know of their ideals and aspirations. I have witnessed the real and genuine equal rights and freed[illegible] of any minority people. I have witnessed their many nations and people busy [illegible] in amity, collaboration and peace. I know of their deep friendship and [illegible] all oppressed peoples. And on the basis of that experience and knowledge, [illegible] by tens of thousands of people, I firmly believe that the American [illegible] will refuse to fall victims of anti-Soviet adventures, will refuse to join Ameri

r world imperialism in any attack against the Soviet people.

Let us have an end of excursions abroad. Let us militantly oppose every effort to involve our country in war. Let us stand resolutely for peace. Let the slogan ringing loudly be "Keep America Out of the War". Let us unite in order to solve the grave problems which face our people here at home. That is why we came here today. The major problem facing us is the economic, the social and political plight of our people! It is our responsibility and the mandate from those whom we represent to build the National Negro Congress, its local councils and sub-divisions to a powerful organization which will win for the Negro people, in alliance with its great allies, jobs, security, civil liberty, democracy and freedom.

BUILD FOR UNITY

We have had experiences in building unity among the Negro people. Our form as a federation of existing Negro organizations both nationally and locally has proven to be the best practical device for accomplishing that unity.

Our form, which permits the greatest self initiative and autonomy for local councils, remains a sound organizational principle. If there be those organizations which do not find it possible to affiliate in the broad federation of the Congress, the answer to this problem is not to establish ourselves as a competing organization to such groups. The answer is rather to work more patiently and more cooperatively to achieve unity with them. We must, of course, make possible wide dissemination of the experiences and the victories of our local council and our national body through the development of a systematic program, of a news bulletin in which to exchange ideas between local councils, and stage local and regional conferences on the human needs of the Negro people in the development of a comprehensive program for Negro women and youth. We today must further perfect and strengthen our organizational tasks as I have outlined structure, we must draft our constitution, we must perfect the instrument to lead and unite our people in the coming tense days. And in times like these such organizational tasks as I have outlined become the immediate order of the day if we are to obtain our objectives.

We shall remain, of course, true to the inviolate principle which I had the privilege of enunciating at our first Congress, namely, that the Congress shall be a non-partisan body, welcoming to its ranks organizations of all political faiths, as long as they are willing sincerely to work and collaborate in the program to which our Congress is committed, whether they be Socialist or Republican, Communist or Democrat or Independent. Such has been our policy since our beginning and our victories have proven us correct. And it may be said that where we have failed, or where greater gains might have been made, it has been due solely to the lack of a greater unity in this direction.

WE STRETCH THE OUTSTRETCHED HAND OF LABOR

Five years of struggle teach us that further gains for our people depend upon two factors: one, the degree of unity and collaboration which we can create amongst the Negro people and their organizations on the basis of a common unifying program; secondly, to the degree which our united Negro people's movement is linked with and collaborates with the movements and organizations of its friends and its allies - the trade unions, the youth movement, the farmers, and all other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace. We are Americans and as such join our strength to the rest of the progressive American people.

Long has the Negro worker awaited the extended hand of organized labor. Are there those who would have us turn our back upon the friendly offer made by John L. Lewis in the name of labor Friday night? If there be such we are doubtful of their loyalty to the cause of our people.

The day which we have long awaited has now arrived. The possibility is before us to march forward to the accomplishment of those objectives which will advance the cause of our people. We have before us the extended hand of organized labor, the millions of organized youth, the organizations and forces of millions of Americans willing to march side by side with us.

The Negro people are happy to accept the invitation of John L. Lewis to

come to a working agreement with the mighty forces of labor and to go forward to victory, for victory can now be won. I have no doubt that the delegates to this great Congress will unanimously and enthusiastically accept the invitation of Mr. Lewis to arrive at a working agreement of the National Negro Congress with forces of progressive labor, on the basis of the program of our Congress.

Let us stand for progress, for peace, for security, democracy; jobs, civil rights, American standards. And let Unity be the instrument of achieving these.

This is the way we will win victory, - and victory will be won!

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

We would like to place this report, together with the Constitution of the National Negro Congress, and other informational material into a single printed pamphlet for mass distribution. We would like to do this immediately. It can be done if every one who reads this report will send us at least one dollar by return mail. If enough contributions come in we will print the pamphlet, if not - then for each one dollar received we will send you 25 copies of the mimeographed report. If we print the report, each dollar contributed will bring you 25 copies of the new pamphlet. Let us hear from you now. Help us bring the story of the Congress to masses of the Negro People.

Send Contributions to the National Negro Congress, 717 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

REPORT ON NEGRO WORK

Material for the Negro Commission. 10th Party Convention

The main slogan before the people of the country is unity. We have the task of achieving unity in the trade union movement, unity of the nation and we have as the main instrument the democratic front as the immediate expression of this unity. The line of the Party to pay special attention to the problems of the Negroes and to begin a more intensified struggle around Negro rights.

When National Negro Unity was on the agenda in 1866-70, it was at that point a struggle for the rights of the Negroes and against the oppressors. Following this unity, the reactionaries gained ascendancy and thus we see the basis of the unity of the people flows out of the slave days. This unity can be achieved only on the basis of overcoming the reactionaries. This means struggle against discrimination and also overcoming the contradiction that we are confronted with in the struggle for the Negroes. The only way to overcome it is by doing away with the special form of oppression that they face. The Negroes must not wait for the whites to take on the burden and we must overcome the resistance of the whites to do nothing about it. We must see the necessity of impressing on the Negroes that they must fight in their own interest and that the main instrument is the National Negro Congress. We must break down the resistance among the white people to achieve the unity which is so necessary.

The main link now to be seized is that link around employment discrimination or limitation in employment opportunities. We have here not only the need to unify the Negroes and fight in the interests of the Negroes but many related problems. We must take a stand against monopolies and the fascist organizations. The more we develop this campaign the easier will be the development of the democratic movement.

Now we have a few lessons to draw from this because of the situation confronting the Negroes. There is a tendency in Harlem to incite against the Jews, against the small storekeeper and not against the big corporations, the big monopolies. In these there are very few Jews among the Board of Directors. They are usually aryan. The reactionary forces in the Negro neighborhood seize upon the fact that the Jews are small businessmen and say that they are the main enemy. There is a lesson in so far as unity is concerned, unity between Negroes and whites, unity in the trade unions. The key to the whole question is an energetic fight both to organize the Negroes and to force through concessions. Certain concessions have been gained from the monopolies; Negroes have been placed in jobs. With the aid of the Transport Workers' Union we hope to have Negro bus drivers in 1938.

Now to move to the next point which was the discussion how to work among the Negro people. We must find that main mass organization where the people are and we must recognize that to be the church. A lot has been said on how to get into the church. The best way is to join it or one of the many auxiliaries in the church. Every one of us can join one of the organizations in the church and there become leaders in the biggest mass organization among the Negroes. They constitute 8,000,000 out of the 13,000,000 in the United States. Another thing in connection with the church is the Negro youth. The Negro youth today, because of unemployment faces demoralization. They face certain problems which make them subject to propaganda of the fascists. They speak favorably of Hitler and Mussolini and say that we need such people for this country. They speak against discussion on political questions, but when it comes to singing they sing and [illegible] to sing. They come to branch meetings only once a week and they do [illegible] them. We must get these comrades who can sing to open our meetings [illegible]. They can also create some new songs in the interest of the people. Then we have the actors in the Party. We have a movement of Negro actors and now we have learned how to use little skits to get over a point. They don't [illegible] to be

able to read [illegible] statements. [illegible] can utilize [illegible] people to put over our political [illegible]ts and propoganda and educa[illegible] work of our sections and districts.

For more than fifty years the A. F. of L. did almost nothing to organize Negro labor. As a matter of fact it barred them through constitutional measures. The top leaders said "You can't organize Negroes."

The Committee for Industrial Organization has organized more than a quarter million in less than two years.

Why could the C.I.O. do it, and not the A.F. of L? First of all the policy of the C.I.O. is a correct one. It is a policy that states clearly, that all workers regardless of race, creed, or color must be organized. Secondly, its correct policy of industrial organization gives greater confidence to workers. The great mass of workers are learing that their best interest can only be protected by such a policy.

For many years the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. refused to grant the Pullman Porters an International Charter, thus hampering the growth of this labor organization. Under the leadership of A. Phillip Randolph, an International Charter was finally won. Today the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is a serious factor in the ranks of Negro labor.

Wherever Negro labor, under the A.F. of L. attempted to organize and protect itself against the employers, the discouraging hand of the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. could be felt. The usual method of hamstringing Negro labor by the officialdom of the A.F. of L. was through "Federal" charters which tied them to the apron strings of reactionaries like Green, Wall and Hutchinson.

[illegible] tried to place the blame for lack of Trade Union Organization among Negroes, not where it rightly belonged - upon their own shoulders. They blamed the Negro workers.

The [illegible] knew that Negroes are loyal fighters when given half a chance.

Until the C.I.O. was born, what little trade union organization there was among Negroes, that is, the ones that joined the A. F. of L. joined in the face of great difficulties. They joined in spite of the barriers erected by the leadership of the American Federation of Labor.

We must state, however, that there were many white trade unions who carried on a relentless struggle against the destructive policy of the top officialdom of the A. F. of L. Men who saw many years ago, that only a policy of industrial organization, a policy free of all forms of discrimination because of race, creed or color, would serve the best interest of the American Working class. Outstanding among these was Wm. Z. Foster.

Foster, and many other real builders of the American Labor movement, were expelled from the American Federation of Labor by the same reactionary elements that are now in control of the Executive Council. The clique [illegible] the fight against the C.I.O. This clique must be [illegible] attack on the labor movement. The labor movement must be [illegible] American working class must be united into one powerful [illegible] upon the principle of industrial unionism. The Committee for Industrial

Organization has shown the way.

Insofar as the Negro worker is concerned, the C.I.O. has proven - in proof which trade - that Negroes are ready, and eager to join the ranks of organized labor. Not only are the Negro workers eager to join unions, but, they have demonstrated their willingness to go the limit in defense of the cause of organized labor.

It is no accident that the C.I.O. has been able to organize over 250,000 Negroes in the short space of two years. While the A.F. of L. during 57 years of its existence reluctantly enrolled 40 to 50,00, and this under pressure.

The task confronting our entire party on the question of trade union unity, is the one of bringing now thousands of Negroes into the unions, especially C.I.O. unions. However, we must not neglect for a single moment those Negro workers, who, under the impetus of the C.I.O. drive joined the A.F.L. They must be enlisted in the struggle for tade union unity.

Our trade union Commissions must have as one of its chief tasks, the winning over of the great mass of Negro labor into the organized labor movement--into the unions. This means among other things, the training of our whole party membership to be conscious, alert, and vigilant in fighting for job security, and equal opportunity in advancement for Negroes.

Systematic, and planned enlightment work must be carried on amongst the white workers, winning them to struggle against all jim-crow barriers erected against Negro Labor.

It is only by rallying the white workers in defense of Negro labor, against all forms of Negro discrimination, and for equal rights, will we be able to build the powerful labor movement that will stop reaction in its tracks. It is thus we will build the Democratic Front, the Peoples Front, and lay the base for Socialism.

As the menace of fascist reaction threatens the Negro people with double ferocity, there exists the greatest deisre for unity among them, United action, greater community cooperation is the foremost need that face the Negro people today.

The struggle of the Negro people for their own freedom and the struggle of the forces of progress and democracy meet on a common ground against their common enemy, against fascist reaction.

The National Negro Congress has come forward as the Herculean hammer in building the unity of action among the Negro population, of welding unity of all sections of the Negroes in the direction of improving their general lot as well as to leads a serious consideration of their problems in the international arena.

The struggle around the anti-lynching bill which was sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. occupied a central place in the developement of the progressive movement in the country. The National Negro Congress [illegible] most supporter of this struggle and helped to raise the struggle to [illegible] levels. It was the foremost Negro Peoples' united front organization which carried this struggle into the deep South and strengthened the [illegible] [illegible] and manufacturing class, who are afraid

growing progressive movement in the country, and particulary in the south, who are afraid of the rising strength of labor and who are terrorized at the increasing unity of Negro and white in the trade unions because they know that this is a prelude to unity in political action.

The Second National Negro Congress which met in Philadelphia in October, 1937, was attended by 1,2[illegible] delegates as compared with 912 delegates who attended the First Congress which met in Chicago in 1936. The Second Congress was a remarkable success over the first. However, the increase in the Congress's numerical strength as indicated by the number of delegates at the Second Congress does not at all fully indicate the actual strength and influenece which the Congress enjoys among the masses. Its prestige is more far-reaching than is indicated by its numerical growth.

The fact that the second National Negro Congress was greeted by President Roosevelt, Farmer-Labor Governor Elmer Benson of Minnesota, John L. Lewis and Mayor LaGuardia of New York is a striking manifestation of the growing prestige which it has placed upon the recognition of outstanding progressive leaders of the movement for progress and democracy in the country.

The program and aims of the National Negro Congress must be made know to the greatest number of people. Our task is to solicit and secure the active support of every local and national organization of the Negro people in the country and all mixed and white organizations that are willing to join in the fight for economic and social justice for Negroes, such as: trade unions, civic, fraternal church, business and professional organizations to help build the Congress and make it a greater success.

As a result of the successful work done by the Congress and because of the [illegible] place which it occupies in the American progressive movement, there [illegible] a greater desire among millions of Negro people and many progressive white people to establish closer relationship with the National Negro Congress.

There are millions of individual members of organizations who are anxious to support and cooperate with the Congress, but because their respective organization or trade union may be unaffiliated with the Congress, a closer contact through which they can fully participate has been insufficiently realized.

Existing in the midst of the rapid growth of the democratic and progressive movement in the country, and the necessity of rallying the great masses of the Negro people around and to this movement raises an important task for the National Negro Congress. That is the task of providing for the greatest and fullest participation of millions of individual progressives in the work of the Congress.

The task then therefore, is to bring the National Negro Congress more effectively and more closely to the Negro population in the country and to provide greater opportunities for the fullest cooperation and participation of all progressives in building the Congress.

The National Negro Congress has inaugerated a campaign to secure Sponsors [illegible] various progressive organizations, trade unions, clubs and in the [illegible]. Individual members of organizations can become official Sponsors of Congress in their respective organizations or union and among their [illegible] their communities by contributing a fee of fifty(50) cents for which they will

Receive National Negro Congress Sponsors Buttons.

[illegible] individuals can be approached to become Sponsors of the [illegible] every effort should be put forth to develop the campaign for sponsors. Individual members of organizations, clubs and trade unions who are sponsors of the Congress can play a significant role in bringing the Congress into their organization and help to draw the organization into the work of the Congress and prepare the basis for their organization's affiliation to the National Negro Congress.

In the neighborhoods where several Sponsors have been secured in an assembly district or a ward, these people should be brought together to form a Sponsors Club on the A. D. or ward basis. These sponsors Clubs will function under the supervision of the central body of the Congress in a particular borough, county, town or city.

The question of securing National Negro Congress Sponsors should be one of the central points of pre-convention discussion in every Party branch, unit and fraction. Party organizations and committees should develop discussions around the Negro Peoples' Front, building the National Negro Congress, the history of the Negro people and building the Communist Party as the Party of the Negroes. In addition to the material in the pre-convention discussion bulletin, every Party member should read: Earl Browder's "Lincoln and the Communists" " The Peoples' Front" and James W. Ford's speeches at the Frist and Second Congresses of the National Negro Congress.

Communists in the trade unions should consult the educational committee of their unions and arrange to include in their educational program discussions on the National Negro Congress and the trade unions, etc. Trade union meetings should be covered by people with folders, leaflets, Sponsor buttons, and [illegible] should ask for the floor to give five minute speeches on the Congress and appeal for fifty cents Sponsors.

We Communists have always stood as the vanguard in the ranks of the Fighters for Progress and Democracy. The Communist Party strives to further develop the National Negro Congress, the United Negro Peoples' Front as an inseparable part of the Peoples' Front for democracy, peace and equal status for the Negro people.

We must develop further the role of the Communist Party as the vanguard in the struggle for Negro rights, in the liberation struggle of the Negro people, and its role in continuing the revolutionary traditions of our country. Our Party continues the role of Marx and Engels in the struggle for democracy in the United States. It rallied the British workers to the side of our democracy against the British Crown and prevented their intervention on the side of the slaveowners of the South. Our Party personifies Lenin who aided the American working class in their struggle to unity and organization. His "Letter to the American Working Class" and his contribution toward the solution of the Agricultural Question in the United States exemplifies Lenin's role in America which must be brought home to the Negro people. The role of Stalin can and must be brought to the Negroes in all our work. On the basis of Stalin's contribution to the solution of the National Question our Party has been able to work out its correct analysis and approach to the Negro people in the United States out of which the existence of the National Negro Congress is an outstanding result.

In building the National Negro Congress, we must strive to advance the struggle for Negro rights and the unity of Negro and white toilers. We must dramatize all the democratic demands of the Negro people as inseparable from the struggle of the progressive white people for democracy and peace. The National Negro Congress is a meeting ground of the Negro people in the United States to join in the building of their own united front against reaction, for their freedom, peace, progress and ultimate liberation. In the struggle for the democratic front of which the National Negro Congress is an integral part, the Negro people will learn still more the need for building the Peoples' Front in America, through which struggle they will, together with the revolutionary Negro and white proletariat, under the leadership of the Communist Party will advance to complete liberation, to Socialism.

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CONGRESS

MANHATTAN COUNCIL
143 West 125th Street
New York City
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75090

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* * *

Commons to Flanders Field, are none the less even today jim-crowed, lynched, held in peonage, disfranchised and discriminated against in their native land, and

WHEREAS: The [illegible] distinct danger of America [illegible] war, a war already [illegible] on the continent of Europe, and

WHEREAS: The present war abroad is an imperialist war between equally imperialist rivals and is in no sense a war for the protection of the rights of small nations, and

WHEREAS: The false slogans of this war as a "war for Democracy" or a "war for the defense of small nations" should not confuse us, but should serve only to remind us of our own oppression and subordinate status in our own country, and

WHEREAS: The present drive of the Administration to mobilize the American people to support either side in the war cannot receive consideration of the Negro people because we have ourselves not yet secured full citizenship rights, federal protection against lynching, the complete right to vote, the elimination of the lily-white primaries and the poll tax, or the abolition of the entire system of Jim Crow discrimination, in other words we have not received freedom or democracy, and

WHEREAS: The Roosevelt government has reversed its policy from one of concern for the welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war, extension of trade advantages to the British and French, meanwhile slashing appropriations for WPA, neglecting to establish Federal Health services, abandoning the housing program, which in policy is detrimental to the interests of the American people and brings us step by step closer to involvement in this imperialist war, and

WHEREAS: The Negro people are denied employment in the expanding aircraft and "war babies" industry, while in the Army and Navy they are discriminated against and regimented into the most menial positions, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the National Negro Congress declares that the Negro people have everything to lose and nothing to gain by American involvement in the imperialist war and sharply condemns the administration for the steps it has taken and the partiality already shown, and

DEMAND: of the Administration that it take no further action which might involve our country in war; and the National Negro Congress further

DECLARES: that the battle for democracy lies at home in the war against hunger and misery [illegible] ity, and for full democratic rights; and the National Negro Congress

RESOLVES: to aid in the organization of the Negro people to act in concert with labor, youth and all other anti-war [illegible] to keep our country at peace.

We ask you at the earliest possible time to adopt this resolution in your organization and send copies of your endorsement to the President of the United States and to the National Negro Congress.

The Congress adopted resolutions for the passage of the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill. THE NEGRO PEOPLE ARE AT THE CROSSROADS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION. WE URGE YOU TO ACT NOW. Have your organization immediately adopt a resolution asking the Senate to pass this bill. Send copies of your resolution to Senator Alben Barkley and Senator Charles L. McNary, at the SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C. Send copies also to the Senators from your state. Send us copies of your resolution.

We are opposed to the Norton and Smith amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. Reactionaries in Congress even now are trying to destroy the protection given labor by this Act. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU WRITE TODAY TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS OPPOSING ANY CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

The Congress adopted resolutions for the passage of the Geyer Poll-Tax Repeal Bill. It is vitally important that the Congressmen and Senators from your district receive immediately from hundreds of members in your organization post cards and letters insisting upon the passage of this bill in this session of Congress. Pass resolutions on the subject and send them to CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS E. WALTER OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C., asking immediate favorable action on this bill.

The Congress adopted resolutions calling for passage of the MARCANTONIO STANDARD WORKS ACT to guarantee adequate appropriations for relief and W.P.A. Support this bill by resolutions from your organization and letters from its members to the HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

We are on record in support of the AMERICAN YOUTH ACT. Let us flood the SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR with resolutions and telegrams in support of this bill.

The housing program of the federal government is at a standstill because Congress refuses to permit the United States Housing Authority to make 800 million dollars in new loans to construct low cost housing and slum clearance projects. [illegible] LITTLE TIME REMAINS. WRITE TODAY TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN DEMANDING PASSAGE [illegible] HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF [illegible] GALL AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

Finally, we urge immediate action [illegible]

R. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Massachusetts.—Dr. Simmons is one of the leaders of Negro Congress rk in New England. He is an outstanding medical ractitioner.

...al Secretary: JOHN P. DAVIS, District of Columbia.—Mr. Davis is a graduate of Bates College d Harvard Law School. He was executive secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery for three years; and has been national secretary of e Congress since its beginning. He is Vice-President of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare.

onal Treasurer: U. SIMPSON TATE, District of Columbia.—Mr. Tate has had ten years experience an accountant with the National Benefit Life surance Company. He is a graduate of Lincoln niversity and secured his M.A. from the Wharton chool of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania. t present he is a finance officer at the National Office of the United Federal Workers of America.

nancial Secretary: JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Georgia.—Mr. Bostick attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. e is an accountant and bookkeeper by profession; e has served for two years as treasurer of the ashington Council of the National Negro Congress.

onal Youth Secretary: LOUIS BURNHAM, New ork.—Mr. Burnham is president of the Harlem outh Federation; graduate of the City College of ew York.

TIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

he National Executive Board is composed of pers coming from 18 states and 22 cities in those es. There are nine women and 40 men on this rd. Seven are under 25 and 42 are over 25. The mplete list follows:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

abama

EDWARD E. STRONG, Birmingham

lifornia

MRS. FAY ALLEN, Los Angeles
MR. ROBERT S. ROBINSON, Los Angeles

onnecticut

MISS BARBARA RICE, South Norwalk
DONALD WHEELDIN, Hartford

strict of Columbia

JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Washington
MISS THELMA DALE, Washington
JOHN P. DAVIS, Washington
WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN, Washington
JEROME OSBORNE, Washington
U. SIMPSON TATE, Washington
SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS, Washington

Illinois

75094

MISS HAZEL HAYES, Chicago
HENRY JOHNSON, Chicago
WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, Chicago
HERBERT M. SMITH, Chicago

Indiana

GEORGE KIMBLEY, Gary
EDWARD J. WINTERS, South Bend

Maryland

H. W. PATTERSON, Baltimore

Massachusetts

ATTORNEY J. S. R. BOURNE, Boston
DR. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Boston

Michigan

HODGES MASON, Detroit
LEBRON SIMMONS, Detroit

Missouri

OWEN WHITFIELD, St. Louis

New Jersey

MRS. G. A. ROBINSON, Orange

New York

LOUIS BURNHAM, New York City
CHARLES COLLINS, New York City
JAMES W. FORD, New York City
THOMAS JASPER, New York City
MISS NAOMI T. KORNACKER, New York City
LOUIS MANNING, Brooklyn
MALCOLM MARTIN, Brooklyn
MRS. MILDRED H. MEYERS, New York City
WALTER ROARK, New York City
JOHN W. ROBINSON, New York C.
MISS JESSIE SCOTT, Brooklyn
MAX YERGAN, New York City

Ohio

HERMAN B. OWN, Akron

Pennsylvania

MISS [illegible] OLDIE ERVIN, Philadelphia
B. F. GIBSON, Pittsburgh
[illegible] Pittsburgh
WILLIAM JASON, Philadelphia
CHARLES A. LEWIS, Philadelphia

Rhode Island

MISS ETHEL BROWN, Providence
HENDRIK M. VAN LEESTEN, Providence

South Carolina

JAMES A. BRIER, Greenville

Texas

MASON SMITH, Waco

Virginia

W. H. CROCKER, Suffolk
JAMES JACKSON, Richmond
JAMES R. JOHNSON, Roanoke

Let Us March Forward

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL TREASURER

FELLOW CONGRESS MEMBERS:

To organize a meeting such as the Third National Negro Congress has required a tremendous expenditure of Congress funds. Now we are faced with the task of carrying on that work without a lull, of printing pamphlets our Constitution, and a national bulletin; of paying salaries and office expense promptly; of sending into the field for organizing purposes our National Secretary and other Congress officials. TO BUILD UNITY AMONG THE NEGRO PEOPLE REQUIRES MONEY. If you were inspired by the epoch-making Congress just completed, will you go before your organization at its next meeting and ask for an immediate appropriation to be sent to the National Office for its work. The efficiency of that office will depend on your immediate response. I urge you now to secure personal contributions as well as organizational contributions and send them in at once to make it possible for our national program to be carried out. OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU. Each locality will be given credit on its quota for sums you send in. We know that each local council has its own problems. But we urge them and you to put your shoulders to the wheels and to make the month of May the period when every possible financial aid will be rushed to the national office, so that it in turn may be able to give the maximum possible assistance to each local council. In this way both national and local work may continue on an even keel. LET US MARCH FORWARD TOGETHER.

U. Simpson Tate
National Treasurer.

P.S.—Help us distribute this delegates' report to your membership. Help us print the National Secretary's report and other valuable Congress material. You can secure copies of this printed document for $3.50 per hundred. For one dollar we will send you 25 copies of the Secretary's report. Send in your orders now.

or increased appropriations for the Farm Security Administration, for passage of the Farm Debt Adjustment Bill for retention of the tenancy program, the stamp plan and the parity payment plan in the pending Agricultural Supply Bill, for passage on the Thomas bill for federal aid to education and the Wagner Health Bill. Please understand that these five measures are vitally important to every Negro in America. Act separately on each bill. Get hundreds of postcards at your next meeting and have your members sit down then and write cards to their congressmen and senators on each of the important matters mentioned above. Organize in your group a committee to see to it that the maximum amount of expression on these vital measures gets to members of Congress from your organization. Let us know what you were able to do. Keep us informed as to any answers you receive from members of Congress.

The resolutions outlined above are of IMMEDIATE VITAL IMPORTANCE. THEY ARE MANY IN NUMBER. BUT IF YOU ORGANIZE A COMMITTEE IN YOUR GROUP TO DO ITS UTMOST TO GET EVERY MEMBER IN YOUR ORGANIZATION TO TAKE THE ACTION SUGGESTED IN THIS LETTER THEN YOU WILL HAVE DONE YOUR PART TO WIN VICTORY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE. WE CANNOT REST. WE CANNOT SLEEP. WE CANNOT NEGLECT ACTION ON A SINGLE ONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES OUTLINED ABOVE.

In addition to the resolutions requiring immediate response on your part before Congress adjourns there follow other resolutions which require immediate action. The first of these on the Dies Committee we quote in full:

WHEREAS: We who aspire for a truly free and democratic America view the activities of the Dies Committee and its agents as a great threat to our fundamental rights, and

WHEREAS: Instead of investigating real "un-American" activities such as peonage in the South and the Ku Klux Klan, Mr. Dies has viciously attacked and slandered all liberal and progressive groups, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies has used "un-American" tactics by raiding homes and seizing property without warrant, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies is a member of the southern reactionary bloc of Congressmen that have been fighting with all foul means against the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies holds his seat in Congress by the votes of 4% of the electorate, the remainder being disqualified by the poll tax, therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Third National Negro Congress goes on record as wholeheartedly endorsing the stinging rebuke handed to Mr. Dies by Judge [illegible]

AND IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Third National Negro Congress goes on record as demanding the immediate dissolution of the Dies Committee.

Your organization should adopt this resolution and send copies to us and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. ACT NOW IN DEFENSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

We urge also that every delegate and every organization represented send to the Pardon Board of the State of Alabama a request for the immediate pardon of five innocent Scottsboro Boys.

We urge also that each of you send a letter to the Attorney General of the United States demanding instant prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and the persons responsible for maintaining peonage farms in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Let us make America know that the Negro people will not take the terror of the Klan and the slavery of the peon farms lying down. Your letters and resolutions by the thousands pouring up into the Department of Justice will force them to hold their sworn duty to protect the constitutional rights of Negro Americans.

HOW IS THE CONGRESS ORGANIZED

The complete constitution of the Congress is soon to be published. There is room here for only a brief summary of the Constitution adopted by you.

It is important, however, that there be no misconception as to the purposes of the organization. For this reason we quote in full article II of the Constitution.

Article II

The objects of this organization are:

1. To secure the full rights of citizenship for the Negro people as guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution, through removal of the poll tax and all other forms of unconstitutional restrictions upon the right to vote.
2. To secure the right of the Negro people to be free from jim-crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching and mob violence and to work for the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation.
3. To secure employment for the Negro people free from all manner of job discrimination by governmental agencies and private industry.
4. To promote the cause of trade unionism among Negroes and to work for the organization of Negro workers into trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other trade union members.
5. To work for effective and adequate local, state and national programs for meeting the educational, health and housing needs of the people without discrimination with respect to geographical areas; and, to provide for security against old age, unemployment and want.

6. To foster [illegible] and ex-

their traditions and contributions to American democracy; and, to combat all falsifications and distortions of their historic role in American life.

To promote the cause of peace; to aid the liberation of the [illegible] of Africa, West Indies, China, India, and Latin America, whose aspirations for freedom are one with ours; to oppose imperialist wars and oppression and to strive for the realization of a genuine brotherhood of man in our time.

To promote the spirit of unity and cooperation between the Negro and white people in a common struggle for their mutual welfare and advancement,

Article III provides that the organization shall be composed of affiliated national, state, local and community bodies. Charters to these groups are issued by and revocable by the National Executive Board which is the highest authority between conventions of the organization. A nominal charter fee to be set by the National Executive Board is provided for. Membership of local organizations in local councils of the Congress is subject to the determination of the local council.

[illegible] IV and V provide for officers of the organization (the list of officers in this document) and their [illegible] The President is responsible for the execution of the program of the organization, together with the other officers and the National Executive Board. The National Secretary is the chief administrative officer of the Congress. The National Treasurer, assisted by the National Financial Secretary, is charged with the responsibility for receipt and disbursement of all funds of the organization.

Article VI establishes a national youth council of [illegible] as an autonomous body, responsible for youth work of the Congress, with a national youth secretary as administrative officer for youth work.

Other articles provide for power to the National Executive Board to govern the affairs of the organization, raise revenue, employ necessary personnel, delegate its authority between meetings to an administrative committee, etc. Provision is also made for calling of conventions, amendment to the Constitution, etc.

WHO ATTENDED THE CONGRESS:

Your organization will want to know who attended the Congress. Here are the facts:

There were 1,285 duly accredited delegates from 29 states, 3 foreign countries (Haiti, Chili, Cuba) and the District of Columbia. In addition 28 organizations sent observers. Of the delegates 406 were under 25 years of age and 879 were above that age. Women delegates numbered 488; male delegates 796.

The representation from various types of organizations follows: Trade Unions—464; Churches—76; Women's groups—36; Fraternal organizations—66; Civic groups—[illegible]; Professional groups—38; Farm groups—26; Educational organizations—77; [illegible]

State representation was as follows: Alabama 10; Arkansas—8; California—3; Connecticut—48; Delaware—9; District of Columbia—173; Illinois—69; Indiana—19; Kansas—1; Kentucky—2; Louisiana—3; Maryland—31; Massachusetts—42; Michigan—28; Minnesota—3; Mississippi—[illegible]; Missouri—8; New Jersey—15; New York—[illegible]; Carolina—9, Ohio—34; Oklahoma—2; Pennsylvania—132; Rhode Island—4; South Carolina—2; Tennessee—7; Texas—6; Virginia—30; Wisconsin—1; West Virginia—12; and Haiti—1; Chili—1; Cuba—1.

WHO GUIDES THE POLICIES OF THE CONGRESS?

Here are the brief histories of the officers you elected:

President: MAX YERGAN, New York—Dr. Yergan is director of the International Committee on African Affairs and a member of the faculty of the City College of New York. For 17 years he was South African Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1934 for the "most distinguished service to the Negro People" in that year.

Vice-Presidents:

HENRY JOHNSON, Illinois—Mr. Johnson is Assistant National Director of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee. Under his leadership 20,000 Negro packinghouse workers have been brought into the trade union. Prior to this work Mr. Johnson was a national organizer among Negro steel workers.

REV. WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN, District of Columbia.—Rev. Jernagin is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. He is national president of the Sunday School and Baptist Young Peoples Union with more than one million members.

MRS. FAY ALLEN, California—Mrs. Allen is president of the Los Angeles Council of the National Negro Congress. She is a member of the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, having been elected to this office by 117,000 votes; the highest number of votes ever polled for a Negro candidate for public office.

REV. OWEN WHITFIELD, Missouri—Rev. Whitfield is international vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. He is a member of the Commission appointed by the Governor of Missouri to investigate conditions among workers. He was the leader of the famous "roadside strike" of 4,000 Negro and white evicted tenant farmers which [illegible] national attention to the problems of the [illegible]

DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS, Pennsylvania—[illegible] Lewis is president of the Philadelphia [illegible] National Negro Congress. He has been active in civic work in Philadelphia for more than a quarter of a

NEGRO CHAMPION

FREEDOM EQUALITY

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NEGRO CHAMPION

AN EDITORIAL

JOBS IN DOWNTOWN DEPARTMENT STORES

"The right of a man to live by his work," is a cardinal principle of DEMOCRACY. It is not by accident that this concept is the rock upon which the National Negro Congress firmly stands. Together with this realization, goes also a consistent struggle for full participation of Negroes in the job-life of the city and nation.

Toward this objective, the National Negro Congress recently launched a job-campaign calling for employment of Negroes in the downtown department stores, not merely as porters and elevator operators, but to be employed as sales clerks and office workers.

Representatives of the Congress approached a number of leading establishments to discuss this issue. A series of negotiation conferences were set into motion with the personnel managements of McCreery's, Bloomingdale's and R.H. Macy's.

DENIED DISCRIMINATION

The firms in each case denied practicing discrimination against Negro workers, yet no single Negro is employed in other than menial positions in either of the establishments. Taking this fact for its cue, the Congress proposed a round of discussions with the managements and the machinery for negotiation was put into gear. The first phase of the talks ended with the stores agreeing to accept and treat Negro applicants in a manner identical with white workers. The Macy management was first to agree in principle. Its personnel director, F. G. Atkinson, promised the Congress that his store "would take the lead" in abolishing jim-crow practices in the hiring of Negro workers and invited young men and women qualified for clerical and sales positions to make application at the Registrar's office.

CALLED ABRUPT HALT

But hardly had the agreement been reached when Macy's "took the lead" in calling an abrupt halt to the negotiations and refused outright to issue a promised statement bearing on the issue; the excuse being, that "misinterpretation and unwarranted and inaccurate publicity," made further negotiation impossible. In such a clumsy attempt at buck-passing can be seen the fine technique of the Negro-bater and potential lyncher.

NO ISOLATED STRUGGLE

It must be thoroughly understood that the fight for jobs for Negroes is not an isolated factor, but an integral part of the general struggle for Negro liberation. In order to live, the Negro MUST have work! THUS, the fight for JOBS is, in fact, a fight for LIFE. And even those Negroes who are fortunate enough to have some type of employment, MUST join in the fight for better jobs in order to successfully combat the anti-democractic forces and to insure BETTER living conditions.

UNITY IN THE ELECTIONS: A Statement by Dr. Max Yergan

In a statement released to the people of New York City recently, Dr. Max Yergan declared:

"In the interest of the greatest unity against Hitler and Hitlerism and to increase the possibility of electing a Negro to the City Council, I hereby announce my withdrawal from the coming elections as candidate...for City Councilman in Manhattan.

"In taking this step I am gratefully mindful of the confidence and support given me by the American Labor Party, by friends and organizations among my people and by the powerful Greater New York Industrial Union Council of the CIO and other sections of the labor movement. It was that confidence and support which resulted in my nomination and in the signatures which placed my name on the ballot and gave me the possibility of election.

"There is one all-embracing issue facing Americans today: the protection of our country by the defeat of Hitler and Hitlerism, and the checking of the forces of appeasement which threaten us from within. We Negro people of America have every need to face and act upon this issue because our future is inseparable from it. The scourge of Hitlerism, a new and bestial slavery, or the opportunity to move towards a fuller freedom are the alternatives ahead of us.

"At this moment the destiny of the peoples of every part of the world is being decided on the Eastern and other battle fronts. Millions of men, women and children are dying and enduring indescribable sufferings in their determination to stop and crush the ghastly forces of Hitlerism. This horror must alarm us to the fact that what is happening in those stricken areas is, for all of us here, an immediate threat and a grave peril. The advancement of American democracy depends upon the swift removal of this peril, through the destruction of Hitlerism, which must occupy first place in American thought and action today.

"In this critical hour the people of New York City are faced with a decisive municipal election. I share the widespread hope and belief that they will re-elect the anti-Hitler and efficient LaGuardia Administration and overwhelmingly defeat District Attorney O'Dwyer and those forces which he represents. The re-election of Mayor LaGuardia will be accomplished by the unity of the people and steadfast adherence to the main issues which are: full protection of our country by all-out opposition to Hitler and his appeaser supporters in America; good city government; and the further expression of democracy by electing a Negro to the City Council.

"There is a great need for a Negro in the City Council who will work for the full democratic rights of the Negro people in employment, housing, health and education and who will represent the solid opposition of Negroes to Hitlerism and its appeaser supporters in our City.

"The Negro people must be united, in order to give fullest expression to their anti-Hitler conviction, through the election to the City Council of a Negro fighter for full democracy. It has always been the method of our enemies to divide us. For this reason my friends and supporters endorse my conviction that at this critical time I should withdraw from the city elections for the purpose of helping to unify our people around the main issues stated above. Consequently, I take this occasion to withdraw in favor of the candidacy of Dr. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

"In taking this action I wish to say one final thing. The tireless efforts of those who worked for my candidacy are not lost. Their work is part of a continued effort to secure effective representation on the Council [illegible] improve the conditions of Negroes in the life of the City. To this [illegible] ourselves to a program of unity, against Hitlerism, through the re-[illegible] of the LaGuardia Administration."

FREEDOM BENT!

— by Lij

Oh, bretheren, my bretheren, come
and gather 'round
Bretheren, oh, bretheren, come
and sit you down.
Listen, listen, I have a story to relate,
'Tis the tale of the Black-man's fate!

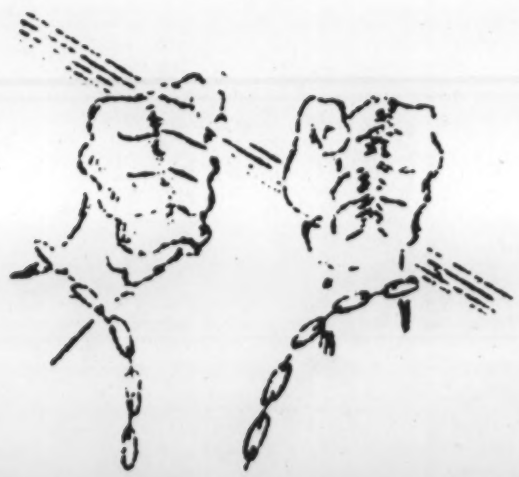
Away back in our history,
Our fathers fell in slavery;
In chains they crossed the choppy sea,
Bowed down in shame and misery.
Into our land, into our fold
The hunters came, for greed of gold;
The echo through the jungle-night
Fell trembling 'round the firelight -

Camp, ahead! Camp, ahead!
On the run, get your gun -
But bring 'em back alive!

That's what it said!

The chaffing bonds, the knotted tail
Aboard the captive ship, a-sail,
Oh, hear the human-cargo wail:

This slavery shall not prevail!



Though bowed with toil upon the field,
We stood like men, we did not yield;
For while the blood and tears of
yesterday were spent,
The 'morrow found our stout hearts,
freedom bent!

The chaffing bonds, the knotted tail
Oh, hear the human-cargo wail:

This slavery shall not prevail!

INTENSIFY THE JOBS EFFORT!

New York -- Claiming "misinterpretation and unwarranted and inaccurate publicity", F. G. Atkinson, Personnel Director of R. H. Macy, Inc., abruptly called a halt to the discussions which had been in progress between the Congress and that company, regarding the placement of Negro sales and office workers.

The notice was given in a curt letter, directed to Mrs. Rosalie Henderson, administrative secretary of the Congress, who is in charge of the campaign. At a previous meeting, Mr. Atkinson promised that the Macy Department Store "would take the lead" in abolishing jim-crow practices and that Negro applicants would receive the same treatment as any other persons.

The flimsy excuse offered by the Macy executive is based upon a news item appearing in the October 18 issue of the Amsterdam-Star News, relating the progress in the jobs campaign. The article gave an account of the attitudes of the various executives who had been approached; mentioning by name the Macy director along with others. In each instance, the firms were quick to deny the charge of discrimination, but claimed the right to choose applicants on the basis of "qualifications".

That Mr. Atkinson should take exception to the item and go so far as to halt the conferences, only proves his unwillingness to co-operate with the Congress and shows his utter disregard for the young Negro women and men who are well qualified to fill the positions sought after.

Wash., D.C.--- Speaking before a gathering of seven hundred Negro women, leaders from forty states, the District of Colombia, Cuba, the British West Indies, and the Virgin Islands, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt promised that there would be no jim-crow in the operating policy of the Civilian Defence Program. The First Lady addressed the meeting in her capacity as assistant to Civilian Defence Director, Fiorella H. LaGuardia, Mayor of New York City. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Labor Department.

Wash., D.C.--- An action conference to mobilize Negro citizens from every walk of life in the Nation's Capitol for immediate participation in every phase of the Administration's all-out defence program to defeat Hitler was held here on Sunday afternoon, October 26th. The meeting, addressed by many leading personalities, was held in the auditorium of Colombia Elks Lodge. The Rev. Wm. H. Jernagin is chairman of the sponsoring committee.

HOW DO WE STAND?

THE NEGRO PEOPLE AND THE DEFEAT OF HITLERISM

The Nazis declare: That the emancipation of the Jews and liberation of the Black slaves are two of the worse crimes of civilization, committed by the plutocrats in the last few centuries, and that it is their historic mission to right these wrongs." We will not attempt to enter into the "proof" offered by these debasers of humanity. But we must concern ourselves with the glaring fact that the ideology of Hitlerism has reached such perilous heights in its onslaught that it is today the chief menace to world civilization.

A victory of Hitlerism would mean complete reinslavement of the Negro people throughout the world. This is no chance statement; this is no slogan. This is a cold hard fact based on the analysis of conditions as they exist in the territories already under the iron heel of Hitler. Wherever Hitlerism has conquered, there also, is starvation, death and general misery for the victims. First, the country is stripped bare of its resources; next, the population is terrorized into submission and finally, forced into complete subjugation. If the white nations are so treated, what, then, is there in store for the Negro, already disliked and segregated?

Hitlerism is the most vicious, the most dangerous evil we have ever had to face. For us there can be no compromise. We have but one course to pursue--either we destroy Hitlerism, or ourselves be destroyed. And, as the first step in this struggle, we must strengthen our forces so as to be prepared to combat the appeasement-mongers that are all about us. These evil forces serve only as the spearhead of Hitlerism and must be crushed where ever it raises its ugly head. This is how we stand. The issue is immediate and grave; it must not be toyed with.

Every struggle on the home front is at the same time, part of the ever-growing world anti-fascist front. Be it the fight for greater civil liberties, for passage of the anti-lynch bill, the anti-poll tax bill, or the fight for jobs, it strengths the front against Hitlerism.

BY
CHARLES
LOGAN

Negro Youth to Confer

The headquarters of scores of the many youth organizations in the Harlem community have been ablaze of much activity as Harlem youth prepares to attend the National Conference of Negro youth, to be held in Washington, D.C. Nov. 14, 15, 16. The conference will present many guests and outstanding personalities, including W. C. Handy, who has written a song especially for the occasion; Paul Robeson, internationally famed Negro basso and many others.

Harlem youth will have much to contribute to the Conference. Throughout the year, the young people of this community have been actively engaged in the fight for the defeat of Hitler etc. Their experiences and understanding will offer encouragement to a large number of youth from other sections of the country who are faced with similar problems. They will, in turn, learn of the efforts and experiences of all youth who are interested in making the world a better place in which to live.

The New York Committee of the Conference has planned to mobilize 400 youth from this city. All organizations are to elect their representatives to attend this great conference.

HAVE YOU ELECTED A DELEGATE?

Jim-Crow Negro Blind

The attention of the National Negro Congress has been called to the discrimination and segregation practiced against Negro blind men and women, old and young, in New York's public and private agencies.

Mr. John Cunningham, who presented this problem to the Congress, is himself a blind young Negro. He has compiled an array of documents which he offers as proof that such vicious and inhuman discrimination does exist. A case in point, is that of Arlotta Jones, 22, accomplished pianist, "buried alive on Welfare Island." And another, Josephine Graham, "rotting away" in the "Old Folks' Home" where she was placed in her early youth. To-day, she has passed her fiftieth year.

The National Negro Congress, in keeping with its policy to uncover and expose discrimination wherever it exists, is taking the initiative to organize a mass meeting around this question immediately after the November elections. As the first step in this direction, the Civil Liberties Committee of the Elks has been approached. Mr. W. A. Roebuck, in charge of this work, has agreed on a program of cooperation with the National Negro Congress. Other organizations will be called upon for support and cooperation.

Washington, D. C.----------Governor James Price was asked by the National Negro Congress to save the life of 15-year-old Joseph Mickens condemned to death this week by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals for allegedly raping a white woman. "You can prevent what many believe is a grave injustice, not only to this Negro youth whose chance for a higher appeal is cut off," the Congress telegram said, "but an injustice to two million Negro youth, who today, are doing their part to defend America from the slavery of Hitler."

[illegible] to ACTION

THE MANHATTAN COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS has set up a JOBS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, broadly representing the community of Harlem. This body invites the help of all peoples interested in the struggle of the Negro people for jobs.

[illegible] NEEDED in order to carry through this fight. To whom can we appeal out to YOU--the PEOPLE, in this hour?? This FIGHT CAN BE WON! THIS FIGHT MUST BE WON! Each Negro boy or girl getting a job means another effective blow at the citadel of discrimination. It means general benefit to the whole people.

SEND YOUR AID TO THE JOBS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, National Negro Congress, 1[illegible] W. 125 St. New York, N. Y.

Chicago. In a letter this week to William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, the Chicago Chapter of the NAACP branded as ignorant and insulting the remarks of Harry O'Reilly, regional director of the AF OF L made when he addressed a committee of the NAACP. O'Reilly is reported to have said, "I consider the Negro an evil rather than an asset to organized labor. I dont believe all of this discrimination exists against the Negro. If it does, it is the Negro's fault and also his fight."

It is claimed that O'Reilly went so far as to use profanity in the presence of ladies who were part of the committee and used the term "nigger".

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, Nov. 10, 1941-8:PM
14[illegible] W. 125 St. Rm 2

FEPC [illegible] hearings

Washington, D. C. NNCP---------- Arrangements are under way for public hearing, bearing on the refusal of employer groups to hire Negro and foreign-born women, resulting in the slowing down in production of vitally needed defense materials. The charges will be tried in Los Angeles, Officials of the Fair Employment Practices Committee revealed recently.

The National Negro Congress urged its Councils and affiliate organizations throughout the nation, to register with the FEPC at once, complaints of discrimination against Negroes. The way is now opened for immediate action, the advice said.

VICTORY AT GLENN MARTIN

Washington, D. C.----Reflecting the correctness in the struggle for jobs, as initiated by the National Negro Congress, three hundred Negroes have now been placed in the Glenn Martin Aircraft Company; one hundred in immediate employment, and an additional two hundred to serve in apprenticeship.

In this campaign, the Congress joined its forces with the Elks and a number of other organizations, including local churches.

NEGRO CHAMPION YOUR ORGANIZER

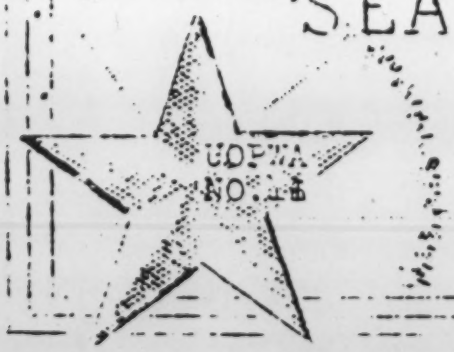
The Negro Champion welcomes [illegible] from all organizations--social, civic, fraternal, political--[illegible] the city. NEGRO CHAMPION is [illegible] effective medium which [illegible] or group may employ [illegible] let the community know [illegible] are doing. Deadline-20th [illegible]

NEGRO CHAMPION

Vol. I, No. 3 December, 1941

Published by: Manhattan Council National Negro Congress, 143 West 125th St., Room 2
UNiversity 4-9335

SEASONS GREETINGS



On December 7, at 2:25 P.M. Japan waged war against the United States. American armed bases, at Guam and Hawaii were heavily bombarded in a surprise offensive by Japanese militarism. Hundreds of lives have already been lost. American blood has begun to flow in the defense of hearth and home; against despotism, tyranny and slavery.

I S S U E S B E C O M E C L E A R

America has been drawn into active military participation in this world-wide battle. Japan's unprovoked attack reveals the desperation of the Rome-Berlin-Tokio axis. It is an attempt to realize the aims of world-domination, to subjugate the whole world to a ruthless dictatorship of a small group of enslavers. It is an attempt to consolidate the war effort, drawing sharply the lines of identification: the forces of democracy and progress as opposed to the forces of enslavement and tyranny.

S T A T U S O F T H E N E G R O

The Negro people see, in this new development in the arena of warfare, an immediate threat to those liberties which have been won over a long period of time through arduous struggle and sacrifice. The Japanese attack upon the United States imperils the democracy for which America stands, necessitating the all-out and unlimited active support of every Negro in the interest of defending his home, his country, his liberties, as well as his life. Recent events belie the propaganda that enunciates the altruistic aims of Japan, to wit, Japan is pledged to bring about a "new world order" in which the darker races shall enjoy a superior status. Conditions of economic impoverishment within the Japanese nation prove that an Axis-dominated world will not alleviate the problems which Negroes have faced for many years. To the contrary, an axis victory would destroy all the achievements which the Negro people have won, and would take away the rights and traditions of the whole people. An examination of Japan's military campaign against the Chinese Republic gives further evidence of the falsity in the theory that Japan is the "Saviour of the darker races."

W E H A V E A J O B T O D O

America can well afford, at this time of danger, to lose the shackles which bind the Negro people. Discrimination against Negroes and other minority groups deprives the nation of the fullest energies of its manpower, and weakens the total effort of the people to defend their home and country against aggression. As Negroes, as well as Americans, our job for victory over the axis forces, becomes clear: (MORE on Page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

1. To insist upon the fullest participation of Negroes and all Americans in the nation's efforts for defense.

2. To press for the fullest utilization of the nation's skill and ability in the production of war materials. The doors of employment opportunities must be opened to all citizens without regard to racial or national origin; discrimination against Negroes in national defense must cease--for the good of the nation.

3. Every Harlem citizen must immediately join the Civilian Defense program, to play a part in the protection of the lives of millions of the civilian population.

4. Army and Navy welfare centers must become bee-hives of activity, with every Harlem woman and girl making a generous contribution, in terms of service to the fighting forces of our country.

5. We must destroy, ruthlessly, those elements in our midst who attempt to betray the nation by disseminating traitorous pro-Axis propaganda.

America must, without hesitation, mobilize ALL HER RESOURCES to insure VICTORY over the forces which subjugate the peoples of the world. VICTORY IS THE WATCHWORD!!

N E H R U R E L E A S E D

New York, Dec...News reaching here recently from Bombay says that Wahal Nehru, outstanding Indian peoples' leader, jailed during the early days of the war, has been released from his detention prison.

It is hoped that Nehru's release is the beginning of the unconditional release of all other political prisoners, not only in India, but throughout the empire, with particular emphasis on the British West Indies.

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MEN! WOMEN! BOYS! GIRLS! VOLUNTEER FOR DEFENSE! DO THIS NOW! Your country needs your help. Go to your local Police station, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., or come to the office of the National Negro Congress for instructions, as to where to report for duty. This is most important; it is the least we can do to help [illegible] win VICTORY.

****

GIVE A CONTRIBUTION [illegible] TINUE TO [illegible]

NEGRO CHAMPION

During the past few weeks, the entire metropolitan press has launched vicious and slanderous accusations against the Negro people of Harlem. An unfortunate incident resulting in the fatal injury of a white youth in the lower Harlem area has been maliciously and deliberately twisted into a smear campaign, to brand the people of this community as sadists and criminals. WHAT IS THE CRIME? WHENCE THE CAUSE?

WE ANSWER: A young boy's life was taken. That was most unfortunate. We do not sympathize with killing so we are not making excuses. Neither are we seeking to justify such acts on the part of Negro youths. But WE DO KNOW WHERE TO PLACE THE BLAME in this case, as in other cases of minor delinquency in the community of Harlem.

THE REAL CRIME in this community as in any other poverty-stricken area inhabited by Negroes, is the evil specter of jim-crowism, lack of employment, and rampant hunger! This triple-pronged spear of evil is in constant evidence, overshadowing the daily lives of the Negro people.

THIS IS THE MAIN CRIME! This is the bane of a people, consistently victimized by every known form of bigotry and oppression! We do not condone delinquency. We realize that this condition stems, not from the trait of a people--as the enemies of the Negro people slanderously imply----but is moulded in the crucible of oppression and corrupt practice.

the Negro Champion
Editor: [illegible]

EDITORIAL:
The Real Crime

WE ACCUSE THESE WOULD-BE INCITERS of attempting to stir up race hatred!! WE ACCUSE them of seeking to blot out the partial gains made in this community through the concerted action of NEGRO AND WHITE residents, and brand them as agents of HITLERISM! The Negro people of Harlem, together with their many friends of other social groups, will meet this challenge just as they have met others in the past; through UNITY of PURPOSE and ACTION toward the realization of a program for social betterment and economic improvement.

Let those who would spread slander upon the Negro, dig into the dust laden files of the Mayor's Commission of 1935. There, will the hate-mongers get their answers. There, will the only SOLUTION be found.

The DEMANDS, therefore, must be:

1. JOBS for NEGROES with no Jim-Crow.
2. Better HOUSING, Schools for Vocational training, Recreational Centers.

These are the measures for curtailing tendency toward juvenile delinquency. NOT POLICE. NOT JAILS..NOT SMEAR..... SLANDER! We must go forward toward that program [illegible]

"OUT OF OUR APATHY TO DEFEAT HITLER"

Says Dickerson . . . —

Washington, D. C..... A ringing call to Negro youth to "shake Negro America out of its complacency, "and stand up and do battle against Hitler and Hitlerism, was issued here to-day by Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago Alderman, and member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices.

The statement was part of the Alderman's address before the first national conference of Negro youth meeting in Washington's Metropolitan Baptist Church.

The theme of the conference was, "NEGRO YOUTH FACE THE NATIONAL CRISIS," and drew an attendance upward of 900 delegates from twenty states and the District of Columbia.

In praising the efforts and foresightedness of the youth in calling the conference, Mr. Dickerson said: "In calling this meeting at such a decisive hour in world history, you have performed a strategic stroke. Clarity, more clarity, and still more clarity on the character of this war, and the role that the Negro must play in the battle to save the world, including ourselves, from utter barbarism, is of vital importance. As an integral part of America, our fate is the fate of America, and that is why this war is our war."

"If Hitler is victorious, all the gains we as a people have made will have been lost. Because, if Hitler wins, we will be cast into a position worse than the slavery of our forefathers."

"Your conference will deal not alone with the smashing of Hitler, but with the destruction of Hitlerism, as well. There can be no national unity or national defense without a battle against every vestige of Hitlerism here at home...You must shake the Negro American out of his complacency. You must arouse Black youth to the desire for heroic deeds. This is an heroic age. It contains the seeds of our VICTORY."

NEWS

New York, Nov.----As part of their effort to raise monies for the "Front-line Fighters Fund", the Army Welfare Committee of Lodge 691 of the International Workers' Order, has donated the first $500.00 to aid in the rehabilitation of Free Ethiopia.

The sum was realized from the first of a series of concerts, recently launched at the Finnish Labor [illegible] W. 116 St. The highlight [illegible] successful affair was [illegible] tion of Carribean songs [illegible] Massie Patterson, well-known [illegible] prano and civic leader [illegible]

WHERE DO WE STAND?

CHARLES BLOMAN

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! We want Jobs! That is the cry and overpressing need of the Negro people. The dominant economic group of our nation has set the policy that the Negro must be kept out of every field of work that is above the status of servants. Jobs remain unfilled in many places because of a shortage of skilled White labor and the qualified Negro worker is passed by. This form of American Hitlerism manifests itself openly and is thrown flagrantly in the face of the people.

Frustration is often displayed in the form of petty crimes committed by individuals, who not seeing the proper way out, take this method as a means of obtaining the goods needed for existence. No one will condone crime but the real crime among the Negro people of Harlem is extreme poverty, jim-crowism, slums, and extorticnate prices.

Very recently a slander campaign by the New York press was directed against the whole Negro population. Certain evidences of juvenile delinquency were used to brand Harlem as a community of criminals. These lies were promoted as a means of splitting Negro and White unity and will undoubtedly be used by anti-Negro employers in an effort to justify their discrimination against Negro workers. In spite of these obstacles, the Negro people must continue to fight persistently for their right to work in any and all fields on the same basis as other Americans. Negroes must gain the support and unite with the other American workers in the struggle to defeat these forces of Hitlerism. Only through unity with all the progressive forces can a way be made to realize our democratic needs.

We must unite with all the other peoples throughout America and the world for the complete military destruction of Hitler, thereby destroying the bulwark of world reaction. Even as Hitlerism everywhere cannot withstand the united forces of freedom loving peoples throughout the world, it must and will be defeated in America by all democratic-minded peoples.

Then will the Negro find an equal place in the job life of America; then will the path be open to obtain complete equality in our economic way of life. Herein lies the solution to the problem of the Negro people--for the whole people.

BUILD THE NEGRO CHAMPIO

NEGROES UNITE FOR
ELECTION OF PEOPLES CANDIDATE

The election of Adam Clayton Powell to the City Council of New York, first Negro to be elected to that body, is an expression of the overwhelming anti-Hitler sentiment in the Harlem community. It is an example of how the Negro people can develop unity and exercise it to win VICTORY for the welfare of the whole people. Councilman Powell's election serves to promote the best democratic interests of the New York City population, giving representation to the Negroes in this important body of city government.

With America at WAR with the AXIS powers, the unity which has been developed around the election of Rev. Powell must be maintained and extended. The Harlem community, having proven its faith in democracy, must continue to solidify its actions in the interests of achieveing more of the type of oneness which was so effectively demonstrated in this recent election.

Harlem sees in Councilman-Elect Powell, a strong and courageous champion for the rights of the Negro people. Rev. Powell's record of community leadership includes a vigorous career of campaigning against discrimination, disproportionate unemployment, inadequate housing, and other evil conditions. Rev. Powell was elected on an anti-Hitler program.

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75 Negro Leaders
ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN TO FREE EARL BROWDER

New York, N. Y.....President Roosevelt was urged to "take that executive action which will immediately release Earl Browder", at a gathering here last week of 75 Negro leaders who met at the Hotel Theresa, 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, to form a sub-committee of the National Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder.

The noted Communist leader, now confined to Atlanta penitentiary on a technical passport charge, was praised by speakers at the meeting as one of America's greatest champions of Negro freedom.

The Rev. George Frazier Miller, of Brooklyn's St. Augustine Episcopal Church, long a fighter for Negro rights, moved the audience when he declared: "I have come here to be one in sympathy with Mr. Browder. I came here because I want to see him liberated. I know as you do that he was sent away because he was a Communist and that the passport business was a pretext. I am in favor of freedom." Similar expressions were made by [illegible] of the 75 leaders who pledge their support to the campaign. Angelo Herndon was chairman of the meeting.

PROGRESS of Jobs Fight

The campaign for jobs for Negro sales and office workers in the downtown department stores reached a high point on Nov. 29th, when a letter was received from Mr. F. G. Atkinson, who is personnel director of R. H. Macy, enunciating the employment policy of the institution with regard to the integrating of Negroes in capacities of work other than elevator operators and kitchen helpers.

The letter, stating that "the problem is one which must be solved on an industry-wide basis and cannot be met by any single institution," was addressed to Rev. John H. Johnson, the pastor of St. Martins Church, 123rd Street and Lenox Avenue. The letter expressed the attitude of Macy's & Co., by refusing to consider the proposals made by the National Negro Congress in the interest of cooperatively working out a plan whereby Negro workers would be employed during the Christmas season.

The Jobs Campaign Committee has since met and planned to continue its efforts in this director. A conference between the N. Y. Urban League, the Congress, and Rev. Johnson has been scheduled to further project the campaign. Following this conference, arrangements will be made to hold a CITY-WIDE CONFERENCE, where all interested individuals and organizations may participate in whatever is done to insure Victory in this effort.

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Washington, D. C. Dec. 8, 1941---The Republique d'Haiti, following the lead of Costa Rica, declared war against Japan. The united all-out support of the Haitian people for the defeat of Hitler and full aid to the Soviet Union and all the nations fighting Hitler, was expressed recently by President Elie Lescot, in a statement reported in the Haitian press. A financial contribution was given by President Lescot to the Russian War Relief Fund.

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The Rev. John W. Robinson Passes Away

On Nov. 28th, the Rev. John W. Robinson, Negro minister and community leader, died at his home at 118 West 130 St. The community and the nation has lost a genuine peoples' leader in the death of Rev. Robinson. The National Negro Congress, especially senses this lost, because he was an Executive Member of the Manhattan Council, and had always participat actively in its work.

A Fantasy
"SILENT NIGHT"

by Gladys Chapman

Silent Night! Holy Night! The voices sing it out. Yet all is not calm. For behold the dying sun, moving swiftly across the blackening skies. Its saddened visage has disappeared beyond the shadowed hills of fleeting time and as the vision pierces the murky mist, the mounted horsemen spur their maddened steeds toward the citadel of rumbling earth.

The thought-waves drift far out to pause upon the crossroads of eternal space, and there the anguished shock goes home with arrow-speed:- "Humanity! Humanity! Oh burdened soul of earth entrapped within the net of avaricious greed and hate!"

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" The voices cry it out and the violent hoof-beats crash with thunder-roar as the armored speeds into the quickened night. The gouging spurs of fiery steel eat deep into the bleeding flank: the mournful wailing of 100 million souls, emulped and swept on in a swirling torrent of carnage. But... Man must make the sacrifice. to pay for better things to come.

"Silent Night'. Holy Night!" A billion chanting voices reverberate across the length and breadth of troubled earth. Strange tones commingled with the sound of cannon-roar... But man shall pay the price, and gladly, though his countenance be grim in face of death's eternity.

Man knows that earth shall live again; for already, through the quickening beat of his racing pulse he can sense the dawn in the road ahead. Yes! earth shall rise again and her regenerated sons shall break the shackelled bonds forevermore..

"Silent Night! Holy Night!! United voices sing and a clarion call bursts through the veil of night to sound the tocsin: "Rise up! Rise up! Over all the rounded earth, rise up to meet tomorrow's dawn!"

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TOYS FOR DEMOCRACY

by Kitty Harrison

The Christmas rush is on. The streets are overflowing with shopping crowds. The emphasis on buying is on toys. What does it all mean to the average Harlem mother? Will she be rushing through the stores buying toys for her children? No. The average Harlem mother can not afford to buy food for her children, much less toys for them to play with. This reason, along with the fact that many of the homes are not fit to live in, is responsible for so many of our Harlem children spending most of their time in the streets. At this time of the year, we usually hear about this and that organization or committee taking the job of giving food and toys to needy families. One will agree that while these groups are taking a step in the right direction, the effort must of necessity fall short of a permanent solution. The permanent and only solution to the problem is ending jim-crowism in the civil and economic life of our country. The fight to attain this end must be a day to day fight with untiring effort until the goal - equal civil and economic rights for the Negro people - is won.

Once the problem of the adult is solved, greater effort can then be devoted to the problem of our children. The problem that always enters our mind at Yuletide is the question of toys for our youth. Do the toys that we buy for our children have an intrinsic value? Will these toys provide for the child's development into useful manhood and womanhood, into a citizen who has been trained to play his part in the fight for democracy, in the factory, or in other walks of life? Instead of having such toys as machine guns, mystery thrillers, etc., let us give the child toys which will develop his creative ability and acquaint him with the elements of mechanics, toys such as paint sets, mechanical sets, arts and crafts work [illegible] all sorts.

NEWS FRONT

Washington, D. C.....Negro Citizens in the District of Columbia were warned this week that unless they took advantage of opportunities now offered through the local Civilian Defense Council to learn the art of defending their homes from incendiary bombs they will find themselves helpless in the face of an air-raid on the Nation's Capital.

The warning was contained in a statement issued by the NEGRO COMMITTEE FOR UNITED ACTION to DEFEAT HITLER AND HITLERISM following a meeting at the Twelfth Street Y.M.C.A. last week.

"The job we have to do, and do immediately is concrete," the statement said. "Every one of us, no matter where he lives, must find out who his air raid warden is in his area. Failure to understand what to do may mean not only the loss of your own life, but the lives of members of your family.....We must remember that in blitz attacks there are only two kinds of people: the QUICK and the DEAD."

The Committee, whose representatives include a large number of Washington organizations, issued the statement in connection with their announcement of a huge Mass Meeting for the Defeat of Hitler, to be held in the middle of December.

Hackensack, N. J.....The officers and members of the Majestic Elk Lodge revealed in a report sent out that more than thirty thousand dollars has been added to the yearly income of Negro families here following an Elk sponsored Industrial Defense Job Campaign that opened the doors of the Bendix airplane factory at Bendix N. J. to Negro workers.

Following a mass meeting several months ago, officials said, Mr. Wilson called a meeting of Elk leaders. The Mayor and other municipal officers of Hackensack N. J. attended. A program was worked out for registering unemployed Negro workers at the Elk Lodge. To date, more than 30 men have been placed in the Bendix plant.

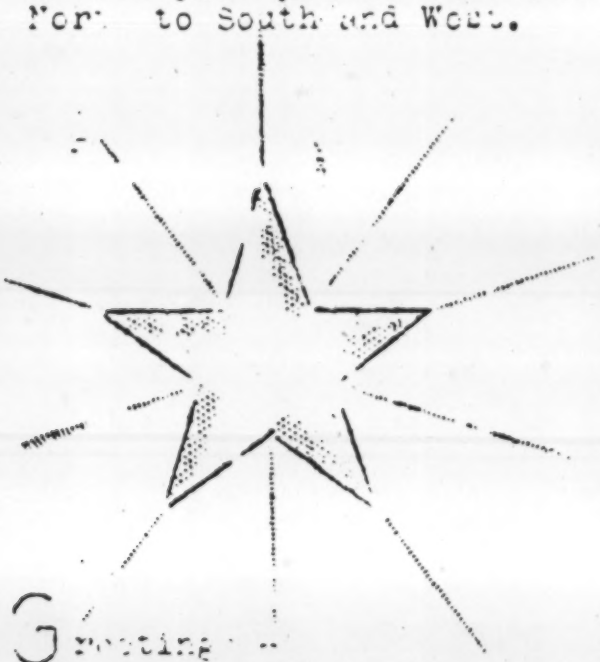
Detroit, Mich.... ...Shelton Tapps, well-known leader and member of the National Negro Congress, was elected to an official post in the Ford local of the United Automobile Workers Union here.

The Local, CIO, boasts ninety thousand members and is the largest body in the entire country. The election was attended by 300 General Council delegates from River Rouge and Lincoln, largest units in the Ford Industry.

JOIN THE
National Negro Congress
$1.00 per year

LET YOUR VOICES SING . . . . .

Happy Yuletide greetings
To the fighting men
Of free humanity,
Halfway across the center of the world;
To-day, all eyes are turned
Toward your crimson standards
Now unfurled!
Alone, yet holding firm
To meet the right test,
Within your proletarian frontiers -
North to South and West.



Greetings -
In the name of those
Who face to-day,
The screaming cannon-fire;
Greetings -
To your countless legions
Coming forth tomorrow
To smash forevermore
The monstrous juggernaut
Encroached upon the sacred soil,
Wrought of your sweated blood and
toil;

Greetings --
To your new-born land,
Whose infinity alone embrace
A full sixth-measure of
The Earth's green surface --
Greetings --
To your scorched fields
Enriched with valiant blood;
A lasting earthly bequest
Unto the sons of many heroes yet unborn!

LIJ

ew York, New York

HQB:JRB

June 13, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. J. E. Mumford.

Re: [redacted]
MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES.

b7D

Dear Sir:

In response to Bureau letter dated May 28, 1942 the following information furnished by [redacted] is being transmitted to the Bureau:

[redacted] personally appeared at the [redacted] Office and furnished information relative to the National Negro Congress which according [redacted] statement was Communist dominated.

[redacted]

b7D

RECOMMENDED [redacted]

[redacted] all of the above mentioned schools were communist controlled through the National Negro Congress and she also advised that it was now impossible for a person to get a position who was not a member, not only of the negro schools that she had been connected with but that it was her opinion that the same situation prevailed in other negro schools in the United States.

b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/25/79 BY SP

Letter-Bureau June 15, 1942

[redacted] ated it was the object of the National Negro Congress operating [illegible] the Communist Party with instructions from Moscow to [illegible] autonomous negro state within the United States through the [illegible] [illegible] program for operation in negro schools. [redacted] she was not a member of the Communist Party or of the National Negro Congress and the fact that she was not had caused her to lose several jobs in the negro schools [illegible] had even interfered with her [illegible] of her independent paint and [illegible] work.

[redacted] Some of the principal individuals [illegible] connection with the National Negro Congress [illegible] the organization formerly known as the Friends of the Soviet Union are:

CORLIS [illegible], formerly head of the Friends of the Soviet Union [redacted]; associated with Atlanta University. b7D

Mrs. [illegible] TWITCHELL [illegible], whose husband was President of Atlanta University for many years.

Miss [illegible], President of Spellman College which is connected with Atlanta University, as well as all of the teachers of Atlanta University and Spellman College.

[redacted] b7D

b7C,D

Letter- Bread June 15, 1942

[redacted] for whatever use it might be in bringing to light the activities of these organizations which she considered so inimical to the welfare of the United States.

b7D

[redacted]

Very truly yours,

b7D

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

MET:DM
100-3633

June 19, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

There is being transmitted herewith a newspaper article clipped from the June 20, issue of the "People's Voice" of New York City, announcing the removal of the national office of the National Negro Congress from Washington to New York City, effective July 1. This statement is reported to have been issued by the executive board released by the office of the president, MAX YERGAN.

This article also points out that other changes growing out of a national program adopted at the meeting of the executive board held May 24, 1942 in the Washington office of the Congress included the election of FERDINAND SMITH, secretary of the National Maritime Union, CIO, as treasurer of the congress, and the removal of HENRY JOHNSON as an officer and member of the organization.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

(Enc 1)

DATE 4/23/79 BY SP-1 [illegible]

People's Voice 6/20/42 NYC

E.

National Body Moving Office To New York

Removal of the national office of the National Negro Congress from Washington to New York, effective July 1, was announced by the executive board of the organization in a statement released through the office of the president, Max Yergan, and made public here today.

This action was taken by the board at a meeting here May 24. The Washington office of the Congress will continue to operate as a national bureau of the organization, under the direct supervision of the executive secretary, John P. Davis. George B. Murphy jr, administrative secretary, will operate out of the national office.

Other changes growing out of a national program adopted at the meeting included the election of Ferdinand Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, CIO, as treasurer of the congress; issuance of a policy statement on the Negro and the war effort, and the removal of Henry Johnson as an officer and member of the organization.

The policy statement appeared in the form of a paid advertisement in the metropolitan edition of the *Chicago Defender* the week of May 30, and in the *Washington Post*, white daily paper, June 2. In addition to the *Defender*, the statement also appeared in the following leading Negro papers during the week of June 6: Washington and Baltimore *Afro American*, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Oklahoma Black Dispatch*, *Michigan Chronicle*, *Boston Chronicle*, *New York Amsterdam Star-News*, New York *Peoples Voice*, Philadelphia *Tribune*, and the *California Eagle*.

The statement characterized the war as a peoples' war, recognized the struggle of Negro people for full and equal participation in all phases of the war as a "demand to win the war"; urged the government to take further action to strengthen the FEPC; to break down the discriminatory barriers against Negroes in the war effort; and called for immediate opening of a western front in Europe against Hitler.

PEOPLES' VOICE
6/20/42
NYC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N. Y. FILE NO. 1[illegible]-162

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
PITTSBURGH, PA.	6/29/42	4/15,22;6/17/42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Pittsburgh chapter National Negro Congress has approximately 20 active members. Headquarters is house of B. F. GIBSON, 74[illegible] Monticello Ave. Officers include B. F. GIBSON, Chairman, and FRED HOLMES, Secretary. Chapter very inactive as such, although individual members are very active in Communist Party affairs. Only one open meeting held 4/15/42 at Negro Y.M.C.A., Pittsburgh. 35 people present at dinner and open forum, half of whom were white Communists.

- P -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Pittsburgh, Pa., 4/25/41. b7C

DETAILS: AT PITTSBURGH, PA. b7D

[redacted] advised that he was cognizant of the existence of a chapter of the National Negro Congress in Pittsburgh. He stated that the activities of the Negro Congress centered around one or two men, namely B. F. GIBSON and FRED HOLMES who actually started the Negro Congress in Pittsburgh in about 1936, shortly after the first National Negro Congress in Chicago, Illinois, in that year. [redacted] advised that the organization in Pittsburgh does not have more than 15 or 20 members and that as a group they are not very active, only holding meetings occasionally. He stated that the group is not very popular and the meetings draw very small crowds. He stated that the negro people in Pittsburgh look upon the group with indifference, b7D

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

PIGS DESTROYED 25 APR 24 1941

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

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New York	3
Washington	1
Pittsburgh	3

MJG

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/25/79 BY [illegible]

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

neither accepting them nor condemning them. He stated that the group includes several individual negroes who are very active in Communist Party affairs. [redacted] stated that the officers of the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Negro Congress are B. F. GIBSON, Chairman and FRED HOLMES, Secretary and that these two men have held these offices ever since the Pittsburgh chapter was founded in 1936. [redacted] stated that GIBSON lives at 7442 Monticello Avenue and is employed as a door man at the William Penn Hotel. FRED HOLMES lives at 3453 Webster Avenue and is employed as a visitor for the Allegheny County Board of Assistance. The headquarters of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Negro Congress are at the home of B. F. GIBSON, 7442 Monticello Avenue. b7D

[redacted] verified the fact that GIBSON and HOLMES are the officers of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Negro Congress. He stated further that MERLE COOK, the Chairman of the Pittsburgh Youth Council, Pittsburgh chapter of the American Youth Congress, is also an active member of the National Negro Congress.

According to [redacted] the following occurred: b7D

Saturday, Y.M.C.A. [redacted]

A dinner forum on the topic "The Negro and the War" was held on April 11, 1942, at 6:30 p.m. at the Center Avenue branch of the Y.M.C.A. The honored guest at this forum was Ben Careathers, [redacted] in the Pittsburgh district. The sponsoring committee were:- b7C

Merle Cook	Charles E. Jackson
Luther Glenn - 3621 Center, Doorman - Wm. Penn.	George Hill
Leon Saunders	Walter Rainey
B. F. Gibson, Wm. Penn Hotel Doorman	Luther H. Johnson
J. O. Hughes	Othur Taylor
H. L. Nesbit	Lloyd Brown

The Chairman of the Forum was Mr. Walter Rainey, negro, Exalted Ruler of the Iron City Lodge, Negro Elks, who is employed by the City of Pittsburgh and was formerly a parole investigator for the Parole Board under the Governor Earle Administration.

Dinner was served at 7:30 p.m., which consisted of 1/4 fried chicken, salad, mashed potatoes, ice cream, cake, coffee.

After the dinner was served, the Chairman called the Forum to order and presented Ben Careathers in his speech of presentation. The Chairman said: "Mr. Ben Careathers is the greatest fighter for the rights of the masses in the City of Pittsburgh."

Report on the
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Serial 236

The suggestion for the formation of the National Negro Congress was made by Manning Johnson [redacted]

b7D

The suggestion to build a National Negro Congress grew out of the failure of the Communist Party to build the League of Struggle For Negro Rights and the Negro Labor Congress that is to make these organizations effective transmission belts for Communism among Negroes.

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

b7D

The official voice of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights was a paper called the "Liberator". [redacted]

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights was abolished and the "Liberator" suspended [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

During 1935 local conferences were held in a number of the large cities of the U.S.

The first "National Negro Congress" was held in Chicago, Ill., in the 8th Illinois Armory. It was attended by 912 delegates. There were several thousand people present at the open sessions. Feb.1936.

[redacted]

At the Congress was present [redacted] b7D
Henry Johnson of Chicago National Organizer of the International Workers Order; John P. Davis of Washington, D.C. National Secretary of the National Negro Congress; Columbus Alston of New York, President of the Young Peoples Protective League; Rosa Raside of New York Organizer of the Domestic Workers Union.; Neva Ryan Chicago, Organizer of the Domestic Workers Union; Thyra Edwards of Chicago, Social Worker; Richad B. Moore of New York, Organizer for the International Labor Defense.; Dr. Arnold Donowa New York; B.D. Amis Philadelphia, Pa. [redacted] Merrill Work, New York; Marty Richardson, Jacksonville Fla.; Layton Weston, St. Louis, Mo. President of the Dining Car Cooks and Waiters Union A.F. of L.; A. W. Berry, New York; Mr. Arhtur Huff Fauset, Philadelphia, Pa.; Edward Strong, Vice President of the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ American Youth Congress; James W. Ford, New York, member of the Central Committee of the b7C
Communist Party; Max Yergan Secretary of the International Committee on African Affairs; Al Jackson Montgomery, Alabama; Harry Haywood [redacted]; Louise Thompson New York, National Organizer of the International Workers Order; Ben J. Davis Jr., New York Member of the Legal Staff of the International Labor Defense; Angelo Herndon, New York; Manning Johnson, New York, Maude White, Cleveland, Ohio; Audly Moore, New York.

The Second National Negro Congress was held in Philadelphia, Pa., October, 1937. It was attended by 1,200 delegates. [redacted] b7D

The Second National Negro Congress gave impetus to the formation of Local Councils of the National Negro Congress. The most successful ones were set up in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland, Philadelphia, Pa. Chicago, Illinois, New York City, Boston, Mass., St. Louis, Mo., Los Angeles, Cal.

The National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress consisted of A. Phillip Randolph President (Socialist) John P. Davis National Secretary (Communist), Max Yergan (Communist), James W. Ford (Communist), A.W. Berry [redacted], Manning Johnson (Communist) Crystalbird Faucet [redacted] Arthur Huff Fauset [redacted]

b7C

The Third National Negro Congress was held in April, 1940 in the United States Department of Labor Auditorium in Washington, D. C.

National Negro (g s Continued.....

The meetings of the National Executive Board preceeding the Third National Negro Congress marked by bitter criticism on the part of A.Phillip Randolph of the work and activities of the Communist Party. A. Phillip Randolph objected to the Communist packing the Congress with Party delegates from all the auxiliary organizations of the Party. He also was opposed linking the Congress to the C.I.O. and making John L. Lewis the central labor figure in the Congress.

L7D

[redacted]

[redacted] Max Yergan was selected as Randolph successor.

Randolph in his remarks called for purging the Congress of Communist if the Congress was to realize its objectives. Having failed to get support because the majority present were Communist he decided to resign from the Congress stating his reasons.

Rnadophs resignation brought about a split in the Congress. The result of which was the weakening of the Congress to such an extent that has been unable to convene again.

At the present time the National Negro Congress is functioning through small narrow Local Councils in a few large cities.

Prior to the split in the Congress it embraced such organizations As:

National Association For The Advancement of Colored People.
National Urban League
Congress of Industrial Organizations.
Brotherhood od Sleeping Car Parters
New York Joint Council of the Hotel and Restaurant Employee.
Numerous Civic, Fraternal and religious groups and many trade union locals of the American Federation of Labor.

National Negro Congress Continued..... 5/15/42

At the present time the National Negro Congress consists of Local Councils in the following cities:

Detroit Michigan
Mobile Alabama
Philadelphia Pa.
Baltimore Maryland
Washington D.C.
Chicago, Ill.
Pittsburg Pa.
Los Angeles, Cal.
Cleveland, Ohio.
~~Chicago, Ill~~

Since the split in the National Negro Congress it has lost practically all literal and non-Communist supporters. [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7C

Organizations now affiliated:

International Workers Order Branches.
International Labor Defense.
Finnish Workers Federation
State County and Municipal Workers CIO
Fur Dyers Union AFL
Hotel and Restaurant Employee International Alliance Joint Board AFL
Hotel and Club Employees Local 6 AFL
Furriers Union CIO
Cafeteria Employees Local 302 AFL
Cooks and Kitchen Employees Local 89 AFL
Teachers Union (Recently expelled from AFL.) charges of Communism.
~~Sixteenth Ward~~
Spanish Workers Club
Communist Party

[redacted]

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78 APR 24 1961

[redacted]

b7C,D

National Negro Congress Contiued.....

b7c

Louise Thompson [redacted] of the Negro Commission of the National Committee. National Negro Woman organizer of the International Workers Order. [redacted] Organized a Negro actors and actresses group for a film to be made in Russia. Aggressive organizer of the National Negro Congress. Toured the United States several times for the National Committee of the Party.

Ben J. Davis Jr. [redacted] of the legal staff of the International Labor Defense. Active in the Scottsboro Case. Organizer of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. Worked on the editorial staff of the Liberator. [redacted] Works on the Daily Worker staff. Member of the Negro Commission of the National Committee.

b7c

Angelo Herndon [redacted] sentenced to twenty years. Decision later reversed by U.S. Supreme Court. Vice President of the American Youth Congress. Organizer of the Southern Youth Congress. Active member of the youth section of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

Manning Johnson former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Former District Organizer of the Communist Party in District 14 Buffalo, New York. Member of the Negro Commission of the Central Committee. National Negro organizer of the Trade Union Unity League. Former member of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party. Member of the Trade Union Commission of the Central Committee. Member of the State Trade Union Commission of the Party. Former business agent of Cafeteria employees Union local #302. President of the Bar and Grill Employees Local 341. One of the founders of the National Negro Congress. Former member of the National Executive Committee of the National Negro Congress. Considered one of the best orators in the labor movement. He was expelled officially from the Party in August 1940.because of political differences.

A.W. Berry [redacted]. Former Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. Participated in the formulation of all strategy in connection with the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

Arthur Huff Fauset [redacted] Chairman of the Philadelphia Sponsoring Committee of the National Negro Congress, Arranged the Second National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, Pa. [redacted]

b7c

Edward Strong [redacted] Active member of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

James W. Ford member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. [redacted] Author of numerous books and pamphlets. Writes for all Party papers and periodicals. Candidate for Vice President of the United States. All plans for the building of the National Negro Congress approved by him before execution of the same. Member of the National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7c

Max Yergan member of the Communist Party. Traveller and author. Secretary of the International Committee on African Affairs. Former instructor in City College in New York, President of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

Al Jackson [redacted] Active organizer for the National Negro Congress.

b7c

Harry Haywood [redacted] Directed the preparations for the first National Negro Congress in Chicago. [redacted]

Hank Johnson alias Henry Johnson members Communist Party approximat[illegible] seven years. At present an organizer in Chicago Illinois for Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America. Chairman of the Organizati[illegible] Committee of the Chicago Sponsoring Committee and National Organizer for the International Workers Order. Active member of the Illinois State Committee of the Communist Party. Now an active member of the National Negro Congress.

John P. Davis member of the Communist Party. National Secretary of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7c

Neva Ryan [redacted] Organizer of the Domestic Workers Union. Co-chairman of the Labor Committee of the Chicago Sponsoring Committee of the National Negro Congress.

Rosa Rayside [redacted] Former organizer of the Domestic Workers Union. Active member of the National Negro Congress.

b7c

Thyra Edwards [redacted] Social worker. Treasurer of the Chicago Sponsoring Committee of the National Negro Congress.

b7c

Richard R. Moore [redacted] toured the country with the mothers of the Scottsboro Boys and with Tom Mooney's mother. Organizer of the International Labor Defense. Active leader in the National Negro Congress. He is considered one of the best orators [redacted] Participated in numerous activities among the West Indi[illegible] [redacted]

b7c

T. D. Amis former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Former District Organizer of the Party in Cleveland, Ohio. Former teacher in the National (Party) Training School. He wrote many articles for Party publications such as the "Communist", "Party Organizer" and the "Daily Worker". Member of the Negro Commission of the Central Committee. Active member of the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, Pa. Member of the Party in Philadelphia and President of the Hotel and Restaurant Union A.F.L. in Philadelphia.

b7c

Merrill Ford [redacted]. He was one of the original group [redacted] that started the Congress. His present whereabouts are unknown.

Marty Richardson [redacted] Active organizer of National Negro Congress in Jacksonville.

b7c

Laton Weston [redacted] President of the Dining Car Cooks and Waiters Union and Chairman of the St. Louis Sponsoring Committee of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7c

NEGRO CHAMPION

FREEDOM EQUALITY

Vol. 1 - No. 1 September, 1941.

Published by: Manhattan Council National Negro Congress
141 West 125th St., Room 2 - Un. 4-9335.

AIMS.

1. Full citizenship rights for the Negro
2. End Lynchings and Discrimination
3. Jobs on an equal basis.
4. All Negroes into trade unions on basis of full equality
5. National Health, Housing, and Social Security Programs
6. Spread knowledge of Negro culture and history.
7. All aid to Ethiopia, China, Great Britain and the Soviet Union
8. Destroy Hitlerism at home and atroad

"WHERE THERE IS NO STRUGGLE
THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS"
-DOUGLAS-

- Greetings -

This is the first issue of NEGRO CHAMPION, a publication of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress. This paper like the organization from which it comes, is devoted to the cause of freedom and brotherhood - that all people may, in fact, become free and equal.

This issue of NEGRO CHAMPION is by no means complete. Our limitations are many but not insurmountable. NEGRO CHAMPION, like the organization from which it comes, will continue in the service of a great people - Negro America, struggling to overcome oppression and discrimination, striving for equality in all of life's adventures, determined to realize full democracy ---

Make this your paper! You may: Send articles and suggestions to the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, 145 West 125 Street, New York City.

I wish to become a member of the National Negro Congress. Enclosed find $1 (one dollar) which will entitle me to one year's membership.

Name_____

Address_____

I belong to the following organizations:

_____ _____

_____

Conference hears DR. YERGAN

Dr. Max Yergan, national president of the National Negro Congress, addressed the New York City Councils of that organization at a working conference held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21. The conference was attended by more than fifty persons, representing Harlem, East Side, West Side, Bronx, Brooklyn, Coney Island, Jamaica, Hempstead and Westchester.

Dr. Yergan, delivering the keynote addressed, placed strongest emohasis on the present international situation, stating that the first responsibility of the Negro people is to insure the defeat of Hitler.

> "The defeat of Hitler means the triumph of the democratic forces, the triumph of the people's efforts, the triumph of the cause of the people. It means keeping alive... the spirit of progress, the spirit of freedom. It means keeping alive, in an active sense, the will to struggle, the will to remain a man and the will to have for oneself the best in life. It means keeping power out of the hands of those forces which seek to continue everything that Hitlerism means."

Dr. Yergan then outlined the tasks before the Negro people, pointing to the discriminatory policies in our country which limit the efforts of America by denying equality and fullest participation for the Negro. He declared that the fight against Hitlerism is at home as well as abroad.

"The Negro people must enjoy the right to work, the right to live, the right to share in the job life of the community." Housing and standards of living must become issues of activity for the future, he said, and consideration must be given to the rise in the cost of living.

Delegates attending the conference reported briefly on the activities of their local councils in an exchange of ideas and suggestions for successful campaigns.

A Greater New York City coordinating committee was set up to develop uniform and cohesive activity of all the councils around the major issues.

Resolutions were adopted by the conference, among them:

> The immediate release of W.A.Domingo, West Indian anti-fascist, and Earl Browder, leading American anti-fascist.
>
> The freedom of Reginald Thomas, now serving a four-year prison term for an alleged attack upon a policeman.
>
> The freedom of Lewis Festus Coleman, california youth, unjustly convicted of a rape charge and sentenced to sixty-five years in San Quentin prison.

Hush. SPEAK NOT HER NAME . . .

by Earl Conrad

Hush, speak not the black one's name,
Keep her identity low,
Put forward the Queens, great ladies, -
The people must not know!

Harriet Tubman towers too high,
She is a dangerous thought,
Put forward Dolly Madison
For Dolly never fought.

Harriet Tubman rescued slaves
(Terrible truth to embrace), -
But Dolly charmed her circle,
And knitted pretty lace.

Hush, don't tell how Harriet
Soldiered in service down South,
Speak loud of Scarlett O'Hara,
Who loved, alas, to drouth.

Hush, conceal this woman's part -
(Never allow to be known
That she helped Brown to plan
The plot that shook the throne).

Sh-h, subdue the voice that rang
Out in the halls of the North,
And bury all her speeches -
And General Lee - trot forth.

Give us books of heroes great,
Oliver Cromwell and Burr,
But burn her memory for
We failed to burn up her!

Joan of Arc, well, that's alright,
Joan is securely in France,
But Harriet Tubman - she was here,
And we can't take a chance, -

We can't take a chance that she
Possibly might inspire
The Negro women of today
To brandish her old fire!

Quiet! Strike out all they've said,
Seward and Douglass and Brown,
And the exalted estimates,
And whittle her stature down!

Hush the talk that she was strong,
Bury the word she was brave -
Destroy the active record, -
And Dolly Madison save.

Oh we live in fearsome times, -
Lest all our precious ones fall,
We'd better crush the truth that
She's the greatest of them all!

RALLY CALLS FOR END TO Jim-Crow

At a huge mass rally called by the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress six hundred people unanimously adopted a resolution demanding an end to discrimination in the armed forces. The resolution, addressed to the President of the United States and other high government officials, condemned the separation of Negro troops from white troops, and forcefully pointed out that the recent outbreaks at Fort Bragg and other military camps are a direct result of the Jim-Crow policies which are destructive to unity and high morale in the armed forces.

The audience applauded the remarks of outstanding personalities who denounced the Hitler-like methods that have been used to deny the Negro people their democratic rights. Hon. Joseph A. Gavagan, Congressman from the 21st A.D., and sponsor of the anti-lynch bill, denounced the misleaders of the American people, and warned against any passivity on the part of the Negro people lest they be misused by self-seeking persons who would exploit the Jim - Crow set up for their personal gain. He urged the audience to continue to fight for the passage of the anti-lynch bill and pledged support to all activities intended to overcome the discrimination that stains our nation's honor.

Charles A. Collins, business agent of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local #6, A. F. of L., emphasized the need for strong organization on the part of the Negro people to overcome the practices employed against the Negro soldiers. His fiery speech dramatized the many incidents of brutality which have recently occurred. Collins forcefully condemned the President's approval of Jim-Crow and urged the audience to demand that he reverse his policy of segregation.

Highlight of the evening was an interview between Rosalie Henderson, administrative secretary of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, and Roger Starr, white Park Avenue youth. Mr. Starr received statewide acclaim from hundreds of Americans when it was made public that he had demanded, upon receipt of his questionnaire, to be assigned to a Negro regiment so that there would "no longer be a Jim-Crow division, but an American regiment fighting for real democracy and freedom." His forthright answers to Miss Henderson's questions expressed a sincere faith in democracy and set forth the point that democracy cannot be enjoyed by one group at the expense of another, but that it must be the pattern by which all must live in unity and accord. Mr. Starr received cheers and a standing ovation from the audience when he pledged to carry his fight on to a successful conclusion.

Other speakers on the program were: Rev. John W. Robinson, prominent clergyman, James E. Allen NAACP, Cyril Phillips, civic leader, and Tom Jones, A.L.P. William Gaulden, national officer of the National Negro Congress, served as chairman of the meeting.

NEGRO YOUTH *Defend Democracy*

November 14, 15, 16, are the dates set for the National Conference of Negro Youth, at which time hundreds of young Negro Americans will meet in Washington, D.C., to discuss their role in the present international situation. Delegates from all parts of the nation will represent their organizations at this conference, in a great national effort to determine "the specific objectives and tasks which bind them in sacred endeavor".

The call to the conference invites all youth to participate in this common cause, declaring that "...Hitlerism, the common foe of all mankind, is particularly the enemy of Negro youth. We cannot feel safe while the doctrine of race superiority is spread throughout the world by force. We cannot win security while Hitler's legions threaten to embrace the globe with their system of plunder, ruin, and the subjugation of minority peoples. The rule of Hitlerism is the rule of slavery. It or we must be destroyed."

Pointing to the jim-crow policies which limit the fullest participation of the Negro people in this great national effort, the call indicates a second objective which confronts Negro youth. "In this hour when every weapon is needed to preserve our country's freedom, America can ill-afford to ignore or abuse the gifts we bring to the altar of democracy. America can well afford to loose the shackles which bind us, to banish the spectacle of voteless citizens in poll-tax states, to guarantee equal rights to those who assume equal responsibility for our nation's welfare, to accord equal educational facilities for Negro youth, to strengthen our fighting fitness by strengthening the health and raising the living standards of Negro youth. America can well afford to defend democracy with democracys most potent weapon - democracy itself."

Information concerning the registration of delegates as well as other details may be secured by writing to the National Initiating Committee, National Conference of Negro Youth, 2374 - 7th Avenue, New York City.

JOIN!

The young people of Harlem are actively inter- in solving the problems which face Negro youth. The Harlem Youth Congress is that organization born out of the need of young people to organize. JOIN NOW!

Committee for Soldiers set up

A permanent Committee for Welfare of Negro Soldiers has been established by the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress. The deliberate violence and even murder perpetrated against Negro Soldiers in Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Oswego, and many other camps, makes such an organization urgently necessary.

The group has adopted a three-point program:

1. To press the proper government officials to end for all time discrimination against Negroes in the army and navy.

2. To urge the U.S.O and similar organizations to include Negroes in their recreational programs, without discrimination.

3. To collect gifts of cigarettes, stationery, toilet articles, etc. for Negroes in the armed forces.

The Rev. David N. Licorish has been elected Chairman of the group. Mrs. Birdie Punch, energetic community woman, is Vice-chairman. Mrs. Helen Green, brilliant young woman leader, is finance secretary. Other officers elected to execute the duties of this most needed organiation include Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Everett Thomas and Mr. Parnell Drayton.

The Committee has projected elaborate plans to benefit the Negroes in the country's armed forces. In order to act most effectively the committee must be greatly enlarged. A call has been issued for new members to join in this work. The call stresses the need for all persons, Negro or white, young or old, male or female, who are concerned with the welfare of Negro soldiers to become members of the group. The call points out that the successful execution of the program of the committee benefits not only the soldiers themselves, but strengthens that unity and morale so desperately needed to defend our nation against the Menace of Hitlerism.

Detach and mail to the Permanent Committee for the Welfare of Negro Soldiers, care of National Negro Congress, 141 W. 125th Street.

I wish to join this Committee ( )

Enclosed please find $_____ which is my contribution to the work of the committee. ( )

Please put me on your mailing list ( )

Name _____

Address _____

ALL AID to Ethiopia

The Ethiopian World Federation, under the able leadership of J. Finley Wilson and Wilford E. Lewin, has launched a splendid program for the Fall and Winter. The program would guarantee to Ethiopia, the first victim of fascist aggression, her independence and nationhood. The Federation will press upon the American government the granting of Lend-Lease aid to Ethiopia, and will collect tons of medical and food supplies to be sent to the Ethiopian people.

To launch this program, the group is giving a banquet on Oct. 22 for Lif Araya Abede, Ethiopian prince, and personal representative of H.I.M. Haille Sellassie. The banquet is being held at the YWCA, 179 West 137 St. Reservations may be made at the National Negro Congress, or at the office of Mr. W. E. Lewin, 256 West 135 St.

From the banquet, the group and cooperating organizations will go into a concentrated campaign to collect supplies to ship to Ethiopia, helping the people to rebuild what was lost under the oppresive yoke of Italian fascism.

The National Negro Congress has endorsed this program and pledged its fullest support and cooperation. The Congress sees this program as vitally necessary to the complete destruction of Nazi-Fascist tyranny.

"WE DARE NOT FALTER -
WE MUST NOT FAIL!"

****

FLASH!!!! THIS IS NEWS FLASH!!!!

YOU HAVE A DATE:	OCTOBER 31, 1941	9: P. M.

FOR WHAT?	A HALLOWEEN PARTY?!!!!!
WHERE?	143 W. 125 St. Rm. 2
WHO'S GIVING IT?	NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
WHAT TO WEAR?	A COSTUME (if you can)
HOW MUCH?	35¢ (What a bargain)
WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THIS PARTY?	You'll have the time
THERE'LL BE:	of your life.....

dancing refreshments games entertainment

****

al Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMETC
65-10519

May 30, 1942

Classification
7/4/79 SP-1 GSS

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

75089

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

There are being transmitted herewith copies of reports furnished by [redacted] whose identity has previously been made known to the Bureau, relative to the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS. 67D

[redacted] is attempting to obtain additional information relative to the National Negro Congress, which will be furnished to the Bureau. 67D

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH,
Assistant Director.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/25/79 BY SP-1 GSS/PC

Encls. (3)

CC - NY 100-3633

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSS/PC
ON 4/25/79

CONFIDENTIAL
DESTROYED

- 236

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND
STAMPS

Careathers took the floor and read a discourse on the negro's patriotism from Bunker Hill to the present war, and that the negro should be given the right to work in war industries the same as any other American. After reading this discourse, Careathers said: "The Chair is open for discussion."

Edward Porter, negro, of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance, Local #237, A.F. of L., spoke, and dwelt at length on the discrimination against the employment of negroes in Defense industries.

After Edward Porter finished speaking, Parker, Secretary of the Center Avenue Y.M.C.A., took the floor and said: "In future discussions from the floor, please confine your talks to "The Negro and the War" and not about jobs."

Arthur Taylor, negro, Business agent of the Building Service Employees Union, A.F. of L., [redacted] took the floor and dwelt at length on what the Building Service Employees' Union has done to raise the wages of negro porters, elevator operators, etc. b7c

Nick Bazari, a Greek, organizer and president Dining Room Dept. Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance Local #237, A. F. of L., took the floor and said: "Please excuse my accent." (He speaks very, very broken English). He dwelt at length on what his union is doing for negroes employed in hotels and restaurants.

The next speaker was Louis A. S. Bellinger, negro, employed as an architect for the City of Pittsburgh, who dwelt at length on the "great Red Army" and the resistance that the Red Army has put up against Hitler's armies. He assailed Congressman Dies as a Poll Tax Congressman who was an obstructionist in the war effect and that everyone here should write their Congressman to vote against granting Dies any more money for his committee.

Henry Forbes, Secretary of the Communist Party, Western Penna., the next speaker, said: "We white Communists hold your Ben Careathers in high esteem. He is one of the militant leaders of the masses; he is the Paul Robeson of Pittsburgh. I have here a few copies of a speech that Paul Robeson delivered in Toronto, Canada a few days ago. I will read you some extracts from this speech." (This speech was about the work the Communist Party has done in breaking down discrimination against the negroes throughout the United States). Forbes said: "I will give this speech to Ben Careathers, who will have copies made of it to distribute to the negro people."

Mr. Parker, Secretary of the Center Avenue Y.M.C.A., was observed shaking in his boots when Forbes remarked: "We white Communists hold your Ben Careathers in high esteem."

The Chairman now presented Hugh Gibson, negro, one of the sponsors of the Forum, who thanked everyone for being here, thanked Mr. Parker for the use of the Y.M.C.A.

The Chairman presented Mrs. Miriam Shultz, as Secretary of the Federation for Civil Liberties. Mrs. Shultz explained the work of the Federation for Civil Liberties and then she dwelt at length on what this organization was doing for the freedom of Earl Browder and what he had done for the Scottsboro boys, Angelo Herndon and Willie Jones in this State. She then informed the assembly present of the Free Earl Browder Conference to be held here at the North Side Carnegie Library April 25, 26, 1942. The pamphlets containing the Call for this Conference and the Editorial Re-Print from the New Republic were distributed to all those present.

The Chairman announced: "We must keep this Forum going since a start has been made and we must look forward to getting together at some future date. The Forum stands adjourned." It was now 10:00 p.m.

The following named persons were present:

Mr. and Mrs. M. Y. Steinberg - Attorney.
Professor Watson, Univ. of Pittsburgh.
May Himoff, Secretary, [illegible], Pittsburgh area.
Dave Lurie, Pittsburgh Correspondent of the Daily Work[illegible] b7c
Henry Forbes, Secretary, Communist Party, Western Penna. Husband of May Himoff.
Abe Strauss, [redacted]
Nalbro Frazier and wife, Frances. Mrs. Frazier operates the Contemporary Book Store, located at 440 Wood St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Charlotte Chandler, wife of David Lurie.
Ruth Kamin, Y.W.C.A.
Joe Brown, negro, Chairman of the Free Earl Browder negro committee.
James Johnson, negro, of the Refuse Drivers Union - A.F. of L.
Charles Porter, negro, Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union #237, A.F. of L.
Merle Cook, negro, Director National Youth Congress, State of Penna.
Fred Holmes, negro, employed in the Public Relations Division of the States Assistance Bureau.
Lloyd Brown, negro, [redacted] and Mrs. Lillian Brown (white), wife. b7c
Luther Glenn, negro [redacted]
Sarah Cooper.
Sarah Rosen, Students' Union.

There were 30 persons served for dinner, which was one dollar per plate.

It is noted that half of the people present at this open meeting of the Negro Congress were white Communists.

b7D

From [redacted]

From [redacted] circular advertising a "National Conference of Negro Youth" held in Washington, D. C., November 14, 15 and 16, 1941, was obtained. [redacted] MERLE C. COOK, who is designated as the Chairman, Pittsburgh Negro Youth Federation. [redacted]

b7D
b7C

-P E N D I N G-

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE PITTSBURGH FIELD OFFICE will continue to follow the activity of the Negro Congress and periodically report the same.

0 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-213

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	7-2-42	6-26,27-42	[redacted] AMO:EB b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation conducted at Norfolk, but fails to indicate existence of such organization.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 5-9-42 at Norfolk, Virginia. b7C

DETAILS: AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

The following persons were contacted by the writer to ascertain if the National Negro Congress had been organized in the city of Norfolk and they advised that they had no information regarding this organization:

[redacted] b7C, D

- PENDING -

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UNDEVELOPED LEAD

FIELD DIVISION

AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

b7c

Will conduct investigation of [redacted] to ascertain if he is connected with any un-American or subversive activities and to determine if he has any possible connection with the Communist Party activities in the Suffolk area.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-326.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
	7-23-42	6-30-42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: According to [redacted] there have been practically no activities in Louisiana by the subject organization. According to [redacted] b7D

No further information has been received from the informant or other sources that a delegation from Louisiana did attend that convention. [redacted]

- R U C -

b7C

Reference: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Houston, dated April 24, 1941.

Details: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

Based on information received from [redacted] there have been practically no activities by subject organization in New Orleans or in the state of Louisiana. However, such information as is available in the New Orleans file relative to the subject organization is made part of this report. b7D

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b7D

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, submitted to the New Orleans Field Office on July 2, 1941, a memorandum reading "Excerpts From the Book Entitled 'The Democratic Front' by Earl Browder, General Secretary, Communist Party, U. S. A.". On Page 69 of the said book appears the following paragraph:

"Our party members are to be found in the widest variety of mass organizations. In the trade unions of the AFL, the CIO and the Railroad Brotherhoods they are at work; in the American League for Peace and Democracy; the Workers Alliance; the American Youth Congress; the various organizations of World War veterans; the National Negro Congress; in the farm, cultural, fraternal, religious, professional and other organizations and in those of the national groups."

On Page 71 of the above referred to book, namely, The Democratic Front, appears the following:

"We must continue to give the National Negro Congress our heartiest support. [illegible] should help it to solve its organizational problems, of linking up closer [illegible] in practical cooperation all the multitude of organizations of the negroes, pressing evermore stubbornly among the general labor and democratic organizations, the full recognition of the negro and his problems as the condition for the advance of all".

b7D,C

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

Should any information of interest be received by the New Orleans Field Office of activities in Louisiana of the subject organization this case will be re-opened and appropriate report submitted.

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[illegible] BUREAU OF INVES[illegible]GATION

75074

Form [illegible] 1
This [illegible] [illegible]ginated at NEW YORK, NEW YORK File No. 100-213

[illegible]	Date when made	Period for which made	Report made by
[illegible]RFOLK, VIRGINIA	8-24-42	7-8,23,28-42	[redacted] [illegible]

b7C

Title	Character
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS [redacted] in Suffolk, Virginia, fails to reflect that he is interested in National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7C

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 2, 1942 at Norfolk, Virginia. Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 9, 1942 at Norfolk, Virginia. b7C

DETAILS: AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA:

[redacted]

b7C

b7C,D

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[redacted] b7D

[redacted] further stated that it his knowledge the National Negro Congress was not active in Virginia and he doubted very much if it even existed in Suffolk. [redacted]

b2c,D

[redacted]

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] further advised that the National Negro Congress, in his opinion, is not active in Virginia nor did he feel that the organization existed in Suffolk. He has heard of the National Negro Congress and believes that PHILLIP RANDOLPH, colored, president of the Pullman Porters was active in that organization and that P. ~~E.~~ YOUNG, Norfolk, Virginia, and ~~TOM~~ REID, lawyer, both of whom are colored, are probably interested in the National Negro Congress. However, [redacted] is not positive of the latter being connected with that organization.

[redacted] PHILIP RANDOLPH is president of the "Pullman Porters" but was unable to give a definite address where the Club had their meetings.

[redacted] is not aware of the National Negro Congress being active in Suffolk [redacted]

67E

75079

- PENDING -

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

Will ascertain whether or not the Society for Protection and Advancement of colored race is presently in existence and if so conduct appropriate investigation to determine that organization's connection with the National Negro Congress.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY:

[redacted]

b7C

NORFOLK FIELD DIVISION

AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA:

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] b7C b7D

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New York, N. Y. FILE NO. 100-524

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Indianapolis, Indiana	8-31-42	6/26;8/25/42	[redacted] 67C DJW:VLD

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: National Negro Congress is reported to have membership of approximately eighty-five in Fort Wayne under the direction of JAMES NASH, colored. Indianapolis chapter has held two meetings—August 12 and 19, 1942— the first attended by approximately fifty persons, and the second by ten. President of this chapter is LOUISE SADDLER, [redacted] At the first meeting, WALTER FRISBIE, secretary-treasurer of the Indiana State Industrial Union Council, spoke and stressed the discrimination against the negro, stating that the CIO was doing all it could to fight such discrimination. [redacted] 67C 67D

- P -

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Reference: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated February 2, 1941, at Indianapolis, Indiana. 67C

Details: The National Negro Congress has been relatively inactive in the State of Indiana until recently. However, [redacted] advised [redacted] that several delegates from Gary had attended the national convention of the National Negro Congress in the Labor Building, Washington, D. C., on April 21, 22 and 23, 1940. 67D

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100-524

[redacted] described the Congress as a fast-growing and treacherous Communist organization. He stated further that the CIO was forced to send fraternal delegates and that JOHN MAYERICK and another individual were sent to the convention. [redacted] stated that all of the colored delegates were active in the CIO in Gary and all were active at the convention when MAX YERGAN was elected president. [redacted] stated that JOHN J. DAVIS spoke at the convention and extended sympathy to the downtrodden negro, and praised the Russian government.

b7D

b7C, I

[redacted] stated that the National Negro Congress held regular meetings at the Crystal Ballroom, 1833 Broadway, and at the NAACP Hall in Gary. [redacted] stated it was his belief that many members of the colored American Legion in Gary were also members of the National Negro Congress.

b7D

AT FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

On June 26, 1942, Special Agent [redacted] interviewed [redacted] who reported that JAMES NASH, a negro [redacted] residing on Summit Street, Fort Wayne, has recently been active in [redacted] the National Negro Congress in Fort Wayne, and that it was [redacted] opinion also that there were from 85 to 100 members in that city. [redacted] was unable to give any additional information concerning the activities of the National Negro Congress in Fort Wayne.

b7C, D

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

[redacted] a community rally held at 21st and Boulevard Place at Trinity Hall on August 12 at 8:00 p.m. This meeting was sponsored by the local branch of the National Negro Congress. Leaflets were distributed in the neighborhood concerning the rally and prior thereto [redacted] furnished the Indianapolis office with a copy of the leaflet which he had obtained [redacted]

b7D

100-524

[redacted]

b7D

The leaflet was headed "Unfair Treatment of Negro People is Hindering the National War Effort." The sub-heading read "This Rally to Protest Local and Nationwide Discrimination." The program chairman was WILLIAM OLIVER, member of the Steelworkers Union, CIO, and the officers were WALTER FRISBIE, Secretary-treasurer, Indiana State CIO; LOUISE SADDLER, president of the National Negro Congress, local branch; JOSEPH BUSH, member of labor committee, NAACP, and BUDDIE BOYD, air raid warden, 21st Street area. The leaflet also stated that other neighborhood people would speak on the program and during the discussion period everyone would be given an opportunity to speak.

The leaflet set forth that the rally had for its main purpose the defeat of Hitlerite discrimination and was based upon the immediate need for national unity without which it would be impossible for America and the allied nations to prosecute a successful war. This leaflet went on to stress further that the discrimination against the negro was dangerous to a united win-the-war effort by the people and the racial discrimination ahd Jim Crow as practiced by the larger employers, particularly those in defense industries, must be eliminated.

[redacted] advises that the meeting was attended by [redacted] These men advised that there were fifty people present, five white, the rest colored.

b7D

The meeting was opened by a colored man whose name [redacted] were unable to learn. This person then introduced LOUISE SADDLER, who has previously been reported. SADDLER stated the meeting was for the purpose of discussing inter-racial problems, Red Cross blood bank, treatment of the colored soldiers in the South and to demand equal rights with the white persons. SADDLER then introduced JOE BUSH, a colored man, who she stated had worked very hard for their cause; that he was one of the officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The subject of BUSH's talk was Jim Crow practices, handling of the Red Cross blood bank, the inability of the negro to obtain employment in the defense industries. BUSH dwelt on the above subjects for some length and in summing up he said the colored people must fight in this war for their country, but at the same time they must fight for their rights as well. Their fight in the

communities in which they live must be against Jim Crow practices, racial discriminatation, the opportunity for jobs. If they did not fight for these things while they were fighting this war, then they would be fighting for Hitler, and for the officials of our government who condoned such practices. To fight this war without fighting for their rights was to weaken the cause of colored people and in place of gaining anything for themselves from this war, they would be fighting for the continuance of the very things that America was fighting Hitler for, to do away with racial discrimination once and for all. BUSH likened the cause of the colored people at the present time to the plight of all of the colored races in the world who were downtrodden. BUSH told of the present uprisings in India, and that the present fight of the Indians for their freedom was parallel with the case of the colored people in this country. BUSH again called their attention to the blood bank, Jim Crow practices, and the other things mentioned previously and said that he was going to make a resolution as:

"Whereas, the things he had just mentioned were against the general welfare of the colored people and be it resolved that now we must roll up our sleeves, one and all, and to take steps to do something about this, to get into the fight for the freedom of the colored people."

He suggested that each and every one should write to the President, their Congressman, Governor of the State, the Mayor of the City, and all the politicians they could think of to bring an end to this discrimination.

BUSH then introduced LOUISE SADDLER. Her speech in substance was upon the freedom of the colored people. She said "The Civil War was fought to break down a racial discrimination between the north and the south. The negro supposedly became a free man, but he was not. How could anyone say the colored people were free when the country allowed Jim Crow practices, racial discriminations, the condition of the colored soldiers, etc." She stated the World War #1 was fought for Democracy but how could America say this was a democracy as long as the colored people were treated in such an abominable manner. Her interpretation of the word democracy was a place where everyone was treated equally the same. The colored man's entry into this war was not to fight for democracy as he did not have a democracy, he was fighting for the continuance of the government which placed restrictions on him, much in the same manner as Hitler had placed restrictions on the peoples of Europe. Any fight made by the colored people in this war would not help him, he would be fighting against his people.

JOE BUSH next introduced WALTER FRISBIE, who stated he was secretary-treasurer of the Council of Industrial Organizations of Indiana. He said that in the headlines of the newspapers for that night was the offensive being

carried out by the Allies in the Solomon Islands, but this was not the deciding factor of this war; on the back pages of this same paper was an account of the wonderful struggle being put up by the great armies of the Soviet Union of Russia. Russia is fighting Hitler, one of the greatest living examples of racial discrimination today. Russia is fighting for your freedom. Now is the time for you to get in the fight and help fight the Jim Crow practices in this city. FRISBIE said the CIO had scheduled a convention for the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis, but they had refused the colored members admission to this hotel. The CIO obtained another place for their convention. Russia is fighting such practices and the CIO is also fighting these things and we are going to fight harder.

FRISBIE referred to the treatment of the negro in the south, both civilians and soldiers alike. He stated the reason for this condition in the south was due to poll tax. The colored man in the south did not make enough money to pay his poll tax and therefore could not vote. Therefore, the elections in the south were controlled by from 6 to 13% of the population by states. This minority elected the representatives of all the colored people in the south. The white people of the south want to keep the colored man down in the south so they will be able to elect their own candidates to office. FRISBIE referred to the operation of the Red Cross blood bank and having two separate centers for white and colored blood, when there was absolutely no reason for this, only racial discrimination. He stated that the colored people are probably better Americans than the white, because they have given their sons to the armed forces, they have donated their blood, not with the stipulation that it should be used by the colored soldiers alone but for all the soldiers. The colored people have spent more money for war bonds, according to their wages, than the white man. Another deplorable condition facing the colored people today was the shooting and lynchings of colored men who were alleged to have raped white women. FRISBIE said that he had been in the south and he knew that one of the favorite excuses of the white men in the south, when they wanted to shoot a colored man, was to say he had raped a white woman. Not only had the whites in the south shot and lynched colored civilians but soldiers as well.

He stated there had been many cases of beatings and severe injuries inflicted on the colored soldiers in the south by the deputy sheriffs. He said these deputy sheriffs were too lazy to go out and do a day's work at anything, and even as law enforcement officers they would not go out and work on their own cases. They would just sit back and accuse some colored person of the crime and the colored person would be convicted. Not only were the conditions in the south against the general welfare of the colored people, but it was against the war effort of the United States. FRISBIE stated that no doubt Hitler was greatly pleased with the conditions in the south because they had slowed down the war effort by not producing the materials of war for the assistance of the Soviet armies who were putting up such a splendid fight for freedom. The Governors of Alabama and Georgia have even gone so far as to refuse locations or

contracts for war materials because they carried the stipulation there should be no racial discrimination in the hiring of employees for these different things, according to President Roosevelt's proclamation #8802, which proclaimed that any plant having war contracts could not discriminate against the negro in employment. The officials of the government who took such attitudes were working for Hitler and not for the best interests of the United States. The time has now arrived when there will have to be something done to stop such practices. The Soviet armies are doing something, the CIO is doing something and will try to do more, now it is time for you to do something, the things you should do is write your President, Governor, Mayor and all other officials you can think of. They must go to the central blood bank and demand their blood be accepted, they must get together and demand a second front in Russia, not tomorrow, but today.

At this point a ROY RADCLIFF, 2101 Boulevard Place, employed by the Marion County Highway Department, arose and stated that he had attended many such meetings and all the speakers had insisted they should do something, but nothing had ever been done as far as he knew. He wanted to do something now, there was no need to wait any longer, they should get together a group of colored persons and march down to the Claypool Hotel and demand they be allowed to enter the hotel as guests and see what happened. Both JOE BUSH and LOUISE SADDLER attempted to hush him up but he insisted the time for taking an active hand in such matters was now, just as the speakers had said, and there was no need to wait any longer. FRISBIE then arose and stated that now was not the time to take such an attitude, however, RADCLIFFE kept insisting they should do something now. LOUISE SADDLER took the floor and asked to make a resolution which would call for a meeting in the same place every week and to work out a plan for future use. LOUISE also stated the rent for the basement there was $5 for each night. They took up a collection but before they could get around several of the people got up and left the room. The meeting broke up with RADCLIFF insisting they should do something now, even that night. He didn't care what they did as long as he could do something.

[redacted] checked auto license numbers on cars parked in the immediate vicinity, however, it was not known that these persons were all in attendance at the meeting. [redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7C,D

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b7D, c

[redacted]

b7D, c

Another leaflet was distributed by the National Negro Congress local branch entitled "Defeat Discrimination." This leaflet announced a meeting to be held Wednesday, August 19, 1942, 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Hall, 21st and Boulevard Place. This leaflet again stressed discrimination against the negro and Jim Crow, and further sets forth that at the last meeting the people in attendance decided to "form a people's community organization which would TAKE ACTION TO DEFEAT THE PERPETRATORS OF DISCRIMINATION who are at this time openly fanning the flames of national disunity."

The leaflet ended with a plea that the people should come out and help form the organization which will act at the first meeting on the following questions:

1. Demanding the immediate formation of a Fair Employment Practices Council to cooperate with President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Committee, which was set up to discourage discrimination in war industries.
2. Getting the mass support of the people behind the organization's program.
3. Running powerfully and rough-shod, if necessary, over the local negro mis-leaders who have consistently "sold out" to the strongholds of discrimination.
4. Allying ourselves with the millions of whites in organized labor who have already taken up the cudgels against racial oppression.

b7D

[redacted] was in the neighborhood of Trinity Hall at 8:00 p.m. on August 19, 1942, and remained there approximately an hour and a half. He determined that there were less than ten persons in attendance and consequently did not enter the hall. However, he did observe that the people in attendance did not hold a meeting but rather stood in small groups and talked, and then evidently disbanded. All of the persons in attendance were colored.

100-524

[redacted] received the impression from his observation that this organization had been unsuccessful in the plea made at the first meeting, as most of the persons in attendance left prior to the termination of the meeting. This belief was substantiated by the fact that only ten people attended the second meeting and that they did not hold a regular meeting but merely stood in groups conversing.

- PENDING -

100-524

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

At Fort Wayne, Indiana

b7D

Will contact [redacted] mentioned in this report for additional information he may have concerning the National Negro Congress in this city.

Will conduct appropriate investigation and contact [redacted] for the purpose of developing information concerning the membership and activities of the National Negro Congress in Fort Wayne. b7D

At Gary, Indiana

Will contact [redacted] to determine if he has additional information concerning the National Negro Congress. Will contact [redacted] and ascertain from him if subject organization is active in the Calumet area of the State of Indiana. b7D

At Indianapolis, Indiana

Will continue to follow the subject organization and determine if any additional meetings are held at Trinity Hall.

- PENDING -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-619

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	9-5-42	9-4-42	[redacted] JEL:AMC b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] states National Negro Congress no longer active in State of Virginia. b7D

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 8, 1941, at Washington, D. C. b7C

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 19, 1941, at Richmond, Virginia.

DETAILS: AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

[redacted] b7C stated upon interview that the National Negro Congress was no longer active in the State of Virginia. [redacted] he related that the National Negro Congress appeared to him to have been infiltrated by the Communist ideology and in view of the fact that he and all other colored people who were present at the formation of the National Negro Congress at Richmond, Virginia, were Christians, they soon lost interest in the National Negro Congress.

In order that the allegations of [redacted] may be definitely established, the leads previously set out in the investigative report of Special Agent [redacted] Richmond, Virginia, on November 11, 1941, are being reset for appropriate development. b7D

- P E N D I N G -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED D. J. Bobbitt SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE RICHMOND FIELD DIVISION

AT ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

* Will make a discreet inquiry into the background, reputation and character of [redacted] b7C

* Will determine the purposes, officers, rules, membership, meetings, and all other pertinent information relating to instant organization in Roanoke, Virginia.

* Will make a discreet inquiry into the background, reputation and character of [redacted] It should be determined what part this individual is playing in the activity and organization of the National Negro Congress in Roanoke, Virginia. b7C

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

* Will conduct investigation in order to determine the background and political affiliations of [redacted]

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NH FILE NO. 100-613 MMG

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR	REPORT MADE BY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT	9/9/42	10/7/41 7/28/42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: At Meriden, Connecticut, no record of this organization. At New Britain, Connecticut, organization is not active. At Stamford, Connecticut, no knowledge of instant organization being active in that community. [redacted] b7C

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New Haven, Connecticut, 9/29/41. b7C

DETAILS: By communication dated 9/10/41 from [redacted] b7D check with the [redacted] and that they could find no record of instant organization. He added that they have a very small population of negros in Meriden, Connecticut.

By communication dated 10/3/41, [redacted] b7D advised that the National Negro Congress is not active in that city. There is, however, an active negro Youth Conference conducted by the L.M.E. Zion Church which the youth of this church join and are then allowed to join the YMCA and to enjoy the same privileges as the white people.

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[redacted] advised that there is no knowledge of such an organization as the National Negro Congress being active in that community at that time. He advised further that seven or eight years ago two colored citizens of that city were approached to start a branch, but they took no interest in it and nothing further has been heard there concerning them.

b7D

[redacted]

b7D, C

[redacted]

b7D, C

INTERNAL USE COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 31, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS

On Saturday, August 29, 1942, a John Davis telephoned advising that he was with the National Negro Congress, and he complained of the release made by Assistant Director Foxworth in New York on the apprehension of Mimo DeGuzman.

Davis claimed that the FBI had, in its release, indicated that DeGuzman was inciting the negro people to take sympathy with the Japanese and that since we had only filed selective service charges in Washington against DeGuzman, we had erroneously given the public the wrong impression of the patriotism of the American negro. I informed Davis that Mr. Foxworth's release in New York was based purely on investigative fact. Davis stated that it was not his intention in calling the FBI to ascertain if the FBI was on the defensive but rather he wanted the FBI to take an aggressive position and to inform the local newspapers and press representatives here in Washington that the American negro was in fact patriotic, that since they have not filed charges against DeGuzman we have no evidence presentable in a court of law that the negro is not patriotic.

I informed Davis that there was a constitutional amendment regarding the freedom of the press and it was not the position of the Bureau to suggest or recommend to the press what they should or should not publish. Davis abruptly terminated the conversation by saying he thought he would have to talk with someone else at which point he slammed the receiver.

Respectfully,

J. J. McGuire.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FIELD DIVISION AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK — FILE NO 100-5

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
EL PASO, TEXAS	9-11-42	9-8-42	[redacted] b7c jeh

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NEGRO ACHIEVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Review of files fails to reflect subject organization's activity in El Paso District.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype dated 12-17-40.

DETAILS: AT EL PASO, TEXAS

A review of the El Paso files fails to reflect that subject organization ever engaged in any activity in the El Paso District.

This case is therefore being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No.
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New York, New York — Milwaukee FILE NO. 100-894

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	9-25-42	8-8-42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY (R)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation reflects that National Negro Congress apparently inactive in Wisconsin.

- RUC -

Reference: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 10-18-41 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. b7C

Details: AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN:

b7C

In the report written by Special Agent [redacted] dated 7-2-41 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the case entitled, [redacted] it is noted that [redacted], stated that there is no National Negro Congress in Wisconsin.

O/S

b7C

b7D

The reports of [redacted] and [redacted] whose identities are known to the Bureau, fail to reflect any activity on the part of the National Negro Congress in Wisconsin.

b7D

[redacted]

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8 SEP

[illegible]-89

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

On August 4, 1942 [redacted] was interviewed and stated that the National Negro Congress has fallen through in Milwaukee and is not active anywhere in Wisconsin to the best of his knowledge.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] that the National Negro Congress was strong in Chicago and if any material appeared in Wisconsin about the activities of the Congress that material would have come from Chicago. b7D

Since the National Negro Congress is apparently inactive in Wisconsin, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin subject to being reopened here if any information should come to the attention of the Milwaukee Office that said organization is becoming active in this area.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION
TO THE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New York, N. Y. FILE NO. 100-612

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Cleveland, Ohio	9-21-42	8/17-20,24-26 9/1,2,8,11, 15,17/42	[redacted] jm b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Little activity by subject Organization in the Cleveland area in the past four or five years. No Organization at present in Cleveland proper. [redacted] knows of no State organization in Ohio. Small chapter in Akron headed by JAMES P. CHRISTIAN and SAMUEL C. EASLEY. Meetings irregular. b7D

- RUC -

References: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 17, 1941 at Cleveland, Ohio b7C

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 31, 1941 at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 8, 1941 at Cleveland, Ohio.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/25/79 BY [illegible]

Details: AT AKRON, OHIO:

In the June 25th., 1942, edition of the Akron "Beacon Journal", an article appeared under the heading of "Double Victory Drive Is Opened" which set forth that "The Akron Council of the National Negro Congress is encouraging whole-hearted support of members for a 'Double Victory Campaign", victory at home and victory abroad, Secretary JAMES P. CHRISTIAN announced

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today". Instant meeting was to be held at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 5, 1942 at 68½ North Howard Street. It was also set out that Attorney S. C. EASLEY, who addressed the last session, stated that the "United Nations have agreed this war cannot be won with business as is, neither can it be won with discrimination because of race, creed or color."

b7D

[redacted] Akron, advised when interviewed that he had no information relative to the National Negro Congress, but that he would obtain such information and report it to the writer.

b7D

In a subsequent interview, [redacted] stated that he understood that this organization was initiated by the Wesley Temple Methodist Church in Akron and that practically all the members of subject organization belonged to [redacted] this Church. He further advised that the only members known to him are [redacted] added that meetings of this group are held irregularly, and further that the group is very inactive.

b7D

[redacted] acquainted with negro affairs in Akron, and that he was further acquainted with the majority of the prominent negroes in that City. He stated that as far as he knew there was no activity on the part of the National Negro Congress in Akron, Ohio.

[redacted]

b7C,D

[redacted]

b7C,D

100-6[illegible]

[redacted]

b7D, C

[redacted] advised that at one time he was a member of [redacted] the National Negro Congress and also [redacted] he is not acquainted with this present situation. He did advised, however, that he knew JAMES CHRISTIAN who is night watchman at the Coca Cola Bottling Company, and SAMUEL EASLEY, an Attorney, to be presently interested in the work of the National Negro Congress. [redacted] added that he was not acquainted with any other members of the Congress, and that, to his knowledge, there is no State Organization in Ohio.

b7D

When questioned with reference to the purposes and aims of this organization, [redacted] gave the following:

1. Do away with the poll tax.
2. For the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill.
3. Do away with discrimination on Government jobs.

At the time of above interview with [redacted] he furnished Agent with a mimeographed copy of the "National Negro Congress News" dated August 14, 1942, which is being furnished to the New York Field Division Office for their information.

b7D

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

b7D

b7C,D

[redacted]

b7D,C

[redacted] in a report dated December 17, 1941, advised that [redacted] stated that the National Negro Congress is non-existant in Cleveland and it is not necessary to think in terms of reviving it even though it is effective. b7C,D

[redacted] in a report dated January 10, 1942, advised that a man from New York addressed as "BOB" stated that SIDNEY WILLIAMS, a Negro from Cleveland, had been in the National Negro Congress of which JOHN DAVIS was acting secretary. [redacted]

The following information was obtained by Special Agent [redacted] of this office: b7C

[redacted]

b7D

HARRY BASEY, colored, assistant superintendent of the United States Post Office Station, also attended the Chicago Convention. GARVIN [illegible] served as Chairman of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Negro Congress for about four or five months and then dropped out because he had heard that the Organization was dominated by the Communist Party. HARRY BASEY was the Vice-Chairman of the Cleveland Chapter and MORRIS HOWARD, colored, was an officer of the Chapter and went to the Convention in Chicago.

The Cleveland Chapter of the National Negro Congress was merely a temporary setup and became extinct six months after its formation. No attempt was ever made to revive it. No records were kept by the Organization except the minutes of the meetings. [redacted] did not know in whose possession they might be found.

b7D

The Cleveland Chapter had no central meeting place and met in churches, in community centers and other places where they could get together.

[redacted] advised that the situation in reference to subject organization was the same as it was when he was interviewed approximately one year ago, which interview is set out in reference report of Special Agent [redacted]

b7C,D

[redacted] is in a position to know of any activity on the part of subject organization [redacted] he is well acquainted with the majority of prominent negroes throughout the State of Ohio, [redacted] but to his knowledge, this paper has carried no local stories pertaining to the Organization during the past year. When questioned with reference to the unit in Akron, [redacted] stated he knew nothing about it and he did not know SAMUEL EASLEY or JAMES C. CHRISTIAN. He stated that his acquaintanceship with negroes in Akron was very wide and he believes that if CHRISTIAN or EASLEY were active in prominent negro circles in Akron, it would have come to this attention.

This case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin subject to being re-opened upon the receipt of information reflecting activity in the Cleveland Field area.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN ANTONIO	9/23/42	9/10,11/42	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] advises organization founded in San Antonio approximately 3½ years ago by JOHN W. DAVIS, the present secretary of the National Negro Congress with NEALON L. FLAGGS as its first president. Organization's activity has gradually declined in the past two years until at present [redacted] believes its total membership does not exceed twenty-five. Partial membership ascertained together with addresses and occupations of members. Information obtained from other informants essentially the same as that of [redacted] while not as complete. b7D

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at San Antonio, Texas, 1-31-41. b7C

DETAILS: [redacted] b7D San Antonio, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] at which time he stated that he had heard of National Negro Congress activities in San Antonio and would attempt to determine and turn over to this office any material concerning the officials, meeting times and places and the purpose of this organization. b7C

[redacted] b7D

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED M. W. Davis SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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[redacted] stated on July 31, 1942, that they had heard of the National Negro Congress and League for Peace and Democracy activities in San Antonio, and that they would check the sources of information and determine for the benefit of this Bureau all possible information concerning this organization's activities in San Antonio.

[redacted] stated upon interview that the National Negro Congress was organized approximately three and one-half years when JOHN W. DAVIS of Washington, D. C., Negro, and the present secretary of the National Negro Congress, visited San Antonio. [redacted] advised that NEALON L. FLAGGS, Negro, then manager of the Negro Library Auditorium on North Hackberry and North Center Streets, was the first local president of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio. b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that JOHN F. INMAN, [redacted], while one of the most active members of the Congress, has never held any office. INMAN, according to [redacted], is one of the leading figures of the Congress and assists greatly in the carrying out of its policies. G. J. SUTTON, operating a funeral parlor at 430 North Cherry Street, San Antonio, is at the present time the president of the local branch of the National Negro Congress. [redacted] b7C,D

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] is of the opinion that [redacted] is ignorant of the aims and purposes of the National Negro Congress [redacted] feels that she maintains membership merely because she is of the opinion that the Congress is beneficial to the Negro race. [redacted] b7D, C

[redacted] b7D

This agent was advised by [redacted] that an effort will be made to obtain the complete roster of members of the National Negro Congress [redacted] According to [redacted] the organization has never exceeded forty members and approximately two years ago a determined effort was made to acquire additional membership among the Negro people. The method of organization employed by the National Negro Congress, according to [redacted] consisted in circulating among the Negro people and stating that the aims and purposes of the National Negro Congress would in no way conflict with the aims and purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples and consequently by holding membership in both organizations they would assist in the furtherance of the Negro race. b7D

[redacted] continued by stating that the aims and purposes of the National Negro Congress were very familiar to the majority of the colored element in San Antonio who realized that it was either closely associated with or controlled by the Communist Party. Consequently the membership drive never succeeded in attracting great numbers of Negroes to its ranks. The meetings of the organization, according to [redacted], never went beyond the house to house stage [redacted] stated that the organization, to his knowledge, never held any meetings in any public auditorium. During the campaign of Mayor MAVERICK in 1939 the members of the National Negro Congress were supporting MAVERICK [redacted] while the organization itself apparently took no interest in the election. [redacted] advised that as far as he knew the last meeting of the Congress was held approximately six months ago. Since that time he has heard of no indications of any activity on the part of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio. b7D

[redacted] they were unable to obtain very much information concerning the present activities of the National Negro Congress other than the fact that G. J. SUTTON was the president of the National Negro Congress and JOHN F. INMAN one of its most active members. The Congress, according [redacted] is rather inactive at the present time and where the meetings are held--if held at all--is unknown [redacted] Since the defeat of MAVERICK in 1941, [redacted] stated that the power of the organization has decreased steadily until at the present time it is practically unheard of in Negro circles. This agent was advised by [redacted] that in the event any information was obtained it would be immediately furnished this office. b7D

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] stated that the organization was dominated by the SUTTONS and JOHN F. INMAN. [redacted] The Congress membership, according to [redacted], is rather limited and in his opinion does not exceed twenty-five or thirty members. [redacted] further stated that at the present time in his opinion there is little or no activity on the part of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio. b7D

[redacted] b7D

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION:

At Austin, Texas: Will obtain all available information relative to the present activities and membership of the National Negro Congress.

At San Antonio, Texas: Will retain contact with [redacted] in order to obtain all information relating to the present activities and membership of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7D

At Waco, Texas: Will obtain all available information relative to the present activities and membership of the National Negro Congress.

- PENDING -

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d States Department

New York, New York

WES:
100-

CONFIDENTIAL

October 10, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear r:

The following enclosed literature was obtained from [redacted]

b7D

1 Booklet entitled "To Delegates to the Third National Negro Congress"
1 2-page mimeographed letter dated March 21, 1938
1 Mimeographed bulletin entitled "Constitution - National Negro Congress"
1 Mimeographed bulletin entitled "The National Negro Congress Reports to the People".

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

Enclosures - 4

[redacted] b7D

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CONSTITUTION

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

PREAMBLE

Out of the cry of the Negro people for justice and equality, the National Negro Congress was born in Chicago, Illinois, on February 14, 1936 - the birthday anniversary of Frederick Douglass, great Negro statesman.

The Congress is a federated organization which seeks to unite the Negro people and all friends of Negro freedom for complete social justice and full citizenship for the Negro Americans. The Congress does not duplicate any organization. It is a federated body not only in its organizational structure but in its fundamental philosophy and policy. It is a common ground upon which all organizations interested in Negro rights and the promotion of democracy for all Americans in the country can meet and pool their strength and resources toward the common goal of social, economic and political betterment. It seeks through constructive and united action to achieve its objectives.

With the formation of this Congress a new day dawned in the life of the Negro people. It has been a source of inspiration and power to the whole cause of Negro rights, peace, progress, for the entire American people. During the four years of its existence, it has made a record of outstanding achievement which has drawn to it ever increasing support of the Negro people, and of labor, church, civic and fair-minded Americans throughout the land. It has successfully battled discrimination, Jim-crowism, violence and brutality against the Negro people. Its influence for the advancement of Negro rights, for the betterment of the miserable conditions of the Negro people, for the organization of the Negro workers into unions on a basis of full equality, has been felt for the common good of the entire American people.

The Congress is based upon those rich traditions of the Negro people symbolized in Douglass, Denmark Vesey, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Gabriel, Sojourner Truth, and those other great historic figures who have battled for the freedom of their people.

In order that this Congress may have a permanent and stronger character for the further achievement for the Negro people of America, this constitution is adopted:

ARTICLE I

This organization shall be known as the "National Negro Congress" (N.N.C.)

ARTICLE II

The objects of this organization are:

1. To secure the full rights of citizenship for the Negro people as guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution, through removal of the poll tax and all other forms of unconstitutional restrictions upon the right to vote.

2. To secure the right of the Negro people to be free from Jim-Crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching and mob violence and to work for the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation.

3. To secure employment for the Negro people free from all manner of job discrimination by governmental agencies and private industry.

4. To promote the cause of trade unionism among Negroes and to work for the organization of Negro workers into trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other trade union members.

5. To work for effective and adequate local, state and national programs for meeting the educational, health and housing needs of the people without discrimination with respect to geographical areas, and to provide for security against old age, unemployment and want.

To foster the cultural development and expression of the Negro people, to spread the truth regarding their traditions and contributions to American Democracy and

to combat all falsifications and distortions of their historic role in American life.

7. To promote the cause of peace, to aid the liberation of the oppressed peoples of Africa, West Indies, China, India, and Latin America whose aspirations for freedom are one with ours; to oppose imperialist wars and oppression and to strive for the realization of a genuine brotherhood of man in our time.

8. To promote the spirit of unity and cooperation between the Negro and white people in a common struggle for their mutual welfare and advancement.

ARTICLE III

1. The organization shall be composed of affailiated national, state, local and community bodies.

2. Charters shall be issued to affiliated bodies by the National Executive Board.

3. The National ~~Executive Board shall issue~~ rules governing the affiliation of bodies to the Congress. The decision of the Executive Board governing the affiliation of bodies may be appealed to a convention of the National Negro Congress.

4. Organizations may be affiliated to the National Negro Congress on a national, regional, state, local or community scale as may be deemed advisable by the National Executive Board.

5. There shall be a nominal fee to cover the cost of affiliation of each body paid to the national office of the Congress. Such fee may not be prohibitive so as to prevent affiliation of bodies to the Congress. The amount and manner of such affiliation fee shall be decided by the National Executive Board, subject to the approval of the National Negro Congress in convention.

6. The charter of an affiliate may be revoked by the National Executive Board, but such revocation shall be subject to appeal to the convention.

7. Membership in the local councils shall be determined by the local council to conform with conditions in its jurisdiction, provided such membership does not conflict with this constitution.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Executive Board

1. The officers shall consist of a national president, five vice-presidents, a national secretary, a national treasurer and a national financial secretary. Each officer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at a national convention and shall serve until the next national convention.

2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the president, national secretary, financial secretary or treasurer by death, resignation or otherwise, the executive board by a majority vote of all its members may determine the successor, who shall serve the unexpired term.

3. The convention shall elect an executive board consisting of not more than fifty members. The president, vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer and financial secretary shall be members of the executive board by virtue of their office.

4. Regional directors shall be elected in and by regional conferences on a geographical basis to be determined by the National Executive Board.

5. National headquarters shall be maintained in Washington, D. C., unless otherwise decided by National Convention.

ARTICLE V

1. The President shall preside over the convention and meetings of the executive board, and exercise supervision over the affairs of the organization. He shall be responsible, together with the other officers of the executive board, for the execution of the program of the organization.

2. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in the performance of his

duties and shall carry out other responsibilities deemed necessary by the National Executive Board.

3. The National Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the organization.

4. The National Secretary shall interpret the meaning of the constitution in consultation with the President, and his interpretation shall be subject to the review of the executive board. Between sessions of the executive board he shall have full power to administer the affairs of the organization and his acts shall be reported to the executive board for approval between national conventions.

5. The National Secretary shall make full reports of the administration of his office and of the affairs of the organization to the convention.

6. The National Secretary shall cause to be recorded the proceedings of all conventions and all sessions of the Executive Board. He shall have charge of and preserve the books, files, documents and effects of the organization. He shall surrender all of these properties at the termination of his office.

7. The National Treasurer shall have the duty of receiving and disbursing all funds of the national organization in a manner prescribed by the National Executive Board, keep faithful and proper books of accounts, and make quarterly reports to the National Executive Board and to the convention. He shall surrender all of these properties and funds at the termination of his office.

Financial Secretary

8. The financial secretary shall assist the treasurer in his duties or perform such functions as may be designated by the Executive Board.

Regional Directors

9. The regional directors shall work under the supervision of the National Executive Board in executing the program of the organization and under the supervision of the National Secretary in administrative affairs, in executing the program of the Congress.

ARTICLE VI

Realizing the responsibility in organizing and fostering the campaign for full citizenship, educational opportunities and rights among the youth of the Negro people, the National Negro Congress provides for the following organization of youth work as voted by the youth session in convention, with the view of effecting close cooperation between the National Negro Congress and the Youth Council.

1. That the Youth Council and the National Negro Congress be continued and strengthened, as an agency for rallying Negro youth to the struggle for jobs, democratic rights and peace.

2. That the specific functions of the youth council be: (a) to organize young people into the National Negro Congress; (b) to stimulate the de velopment of youth organization and activity in local communities throughout the country.

3. That the Youth Council should be an autonomous, independent body, consisting of about ~~twenty-five~~ (25) young people representing the various sections of the country. The council should be selected by the delegates to the Third National Negro Congress on the basis of recommendations to be made by the Youth Session.

4. There shall be a resident board of the Council, composed of representatives of the Northeastern States.

5. The chairman of the Youth Session shall be a member of the Executive Board for the execution of the program.

ARTICLE VII

Duties of the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall enforce the constitution and carry out the instructions of the conventions and between conventions shall have power to direct the affairs of the organization.

2. The Executive Board may establish such departments and create such committees as may be necessary to the progress of the affairs of the organization.

3. The Executive Board shall have full power to supervise the maintenance of financial books and records, the receipt of all funds due the organization, the deposit, holding and disbursement of such funds.

4. The Executive Board members shall attend all regular and special meetings and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them.

5. The Executive Board shall meet regularly every four months. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called when necessary by the National Secretary in consultation and agreement with the officers of the organization or when requested by a majority of the members of the Executive Board. Eleven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Questions coming before the Executive Board shall be decided by a majority vote of its members at a quorum, except as otherwise provided in the constitution. The National Secretary shall notify all members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. Members failing to be present at two consecutive meetings without due and proper excuse shall be automatically dropped from the Executive Board.

6, The Executive Board shall have the power to file charges and conduct hearings on such charges brought by any affiliated body against any officer of the organization or other members of the Executive Board, on the ground that such person is guilty of malfeasance or maladministration, and to make to the convention recommendations for appropriate action. The Executive Board must serve each officer with a copy of the written charges at a reasonable time before the hearing.

7. The Executive Board shall provide for the regular audit of the books and accounts of the organization.

8. The Executive Board shall report its action and management of the affairs of the organization to the convention.

9. The Executive Board shall have the power to adopt such rules and by-laws, not inconsistent with this constitution, as it may deem necessary to facilitate the execution of the program of the Congress by the national organization.

ARTICLE VIII

Conventions

1. The convention shall be the supreme authority of the organization and, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, its decisions shall be by a majority vote.

2. Regular National Conventions may be held annually, bi-annually or at such other times that the Congress in convention may decide by a majority vote.

3. The National Executive Board shall have power to call special conventions whenever it deems it advisable to execute the program and purpose of the organization. The call for such a special convention must include a statement of the particular subject or subjects to be considered at the convention. The Board shall give to all affiliated bodies at least 90 day's notice of the time and place of the convention.

4. A majority of the delegates seated shall constitute a quorum for the convention.

5. The National Executive Board shall determine the basis of representation at national conventions and shall be guided by these principles which will permit of the greatest democratic participation of all affiliated bodies.

6. All committees of the convention shall be elected by the convention, and all reports of such committees shall be subject to the approval of the convention.

7. All members of the Executive Board who are not elected as delegates shall be ex-officio delegates to the convention with all the rights and privileges of elected delegates.

ARTICLE IX

Revenue

1. There shall be an annual organizational fee paid by all affiliated bodies in proportion to their size and membership. Such fee shall be determined according to a scale or standard established by the National Executive Board.

2. The National Executive Board shall have power to raise funds through campaigns and other means whenever it is necessary to execute the program of the organization.

ARTICLE X

1. This Constitution may be amended, except as otherwise provided, by majority vote at the convention.

ARTICLE XI

1. This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the convention.

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
717 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

March 21,1938

Dear Friend:

On March 19th one hundred and thirty delegates from 20 states met in the Anti-Lynching Conference called by the National Negro Congress. The enclosed material indicates the action taken.

The sense of the body which met here was that the Anti-Lynching Bill must be passed in this session of Congress. To do this speed of action is essential. We call on you now to mobilize every organization in your community around the program of action outlined in the accompanying material.

Briefly what is this program?

1. On March 25th (which is the eighth anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of the Scottsboro Boys) we want you to secure hundreds of telegrams and letters in your community to be sent to your Senators demanding passage of the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill in this session of Congress; and to Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama urging the immediate transfer of Ozie Powell from the chain-gang at Alabama back to Birmingham and freedom for the five Scottsboro Boys still in prison. Do not fail in this. Messages will be coming in from every section of the country - let us send in tens of thousands of messages. Let us act together to secure the best effects.

2. On April 3rd we call on every church, Negro and white, Catholic and Protestant to hold special services on the Anti-Lynching Bill, with the pastors asking for an increase in the number of messages sent to Senators and to Governor Graves of Alabama. Organize your local churches to work together on this matter. Have special sermons prepared, get into the hand of every minister a statement to be read in his church, see them personally, phone them. Organize a committee to cover every church in a united nation-wide effort to throw the forces of Christianity back of this fight for justice.

3. On April 9th we urge you to prepare for an effective public demonstration in your city for anti-lynching. Arrange for radio programs, for parades, mass meetings, distributions from house to house of tens of thousands of leaflets on Anti-Lynching. In this way secure hundreds and hundreds of people to publicly demonstrate their determination that the Anti-Lynching Bill must be passed in this session of Congress.

Congress may soon adjourn. We must act now. We can have the power to force [illegible] Bill in this session of Congress. But you must see [illegible] the people in your community are actually moved to effective, militant action if this is to be accomplished.

Please write me at once what is being done in your community in response to this letter. Our national office will give you every possible aid in carrying out this program. Let us work together to carry through this simple but important program in every community.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Davis

JOHN F. DAVIS,
National Secretary

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THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

By
John P. Davis
National Secretary

This report was given Saturday, April 27, 1940, at the United States Department of Labor Auditorium before 1,285 delegates to the Third National Negro Congress. The major portions of the report were broadcast nationally over the red network of NBC - Sunday, April 28, 1940.

Why are we here today! To promote and extend unity of action of the Negro people together with the young and old, the farmers, the workers, in the common objective of putting an end to poverty and the denial of even the simplest democratic rights to which large masses of the American people are victims.

When we speak of this as the Third National Negro Congress we are not forgetting that other Negro men and women before us strove to achieve the same unity which we seek today. As we look back into our history we remember similar Congresses in 1831, in 1848, in 1856, in 1883 - where Negro men and women as we here today - joined in a common cause against racial oppression. The names of Richard Allen, Frederick Douglass, Martin Delaney, Mack Henson and a host of others associated with these strivings for unity form a rich part of our cultural heritage. And it is upon the foundation of unity laid by these heroes of our past that we must build today. However, victory is within our grasp.

As Frederick Douglass, in a national convention of the Negro people held in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1883, said:

"We are here because there is power in numbers and in union; because the many are more than the few; because the voice of a whole people, oppressed by a common injustice is far more likely to command attention and exert an influence on the public mind than the voice of single individuals and isolated organizations; because coming together from all parts of the country the members of a National Convention have the means of gaining a more comprehensive knowledge of the general situation and may, therefore, fairly be presumed to conceive more clearly and express more fully and wisely the policy necessary for them to pursue....."

VICTORIES WON IN THE PAST

We are here because we have faith in the principle of unity, and because our own experiences have seen such unity accomplish many victories for our people. In the past three years the National Negro Congress and its many local councils have organized and united and inspired many thousands of our people to organize and struggle. Where the trade union movement has opened its doors to the Negro worker,

as in the great steel, auto and packing house industries, we have seen the Negroes flock by the thousands into the ranks of organized labor. In the past three years a half million Negro workers have joined the ranks of organized Labor. Today, as a result of these struggles, those workers are buying homes, furniture, taking vacations, sending their children to school, and their increased earning power has strengthened the position of the Negro professional and businessman. For those organized workers there is greater job security.

Our Negro Congress Council has fought and won concrete battles against mass arrests and police brutality. Here in the Capital of the nation our local Council is putting an effective end to police killings of Negroes. Instead of a record of one Negro killed by the police every three months for a period of twelve years, we can report now there has been but one such fatality in the last 22 months. This was done by the organized protest of hundreds of workers from scores of organizations under the leadership of the Negro Congress, securing 20,000 signatures to a petition to end police brutality. It was done by the sustained and pitiless publicity brought to bear on such crimes by the Congress Council. In Chicago and other cities the same kind of victories have been won by the same kind of hard work. The Congress has forced the Department of Justice at least to take the first steps in action against peonage in the deep South and the nationwide campaign of terror of the Ku Klux Klan. If we have achieved no signal victories here as yet, the future is much brighter because of the Congress action. On the very eve of the opening of this Congress we have forced for the first time the opening up of federal recreational facilities such as the Washington Tourist Camp to the Negro people.

Slanders against us in the school book, in such motion pictures as Gone With The Wind, the radio and the press, have been met with the united protest of our Congress. Witness, if you please, the fact that in Boston two slanderous history texts have by our action been withdrawn from public schools and no longer poison minds of white children against the Negro people. Witness, if you please, the carrying through of programs to develop the artistic expression of young Negro

artists by our Councils in Oakland, California, Philadelphia, Detroit and Boston.

Our Congress has indeed become a powerful factor for the advancement of our people.

But neither our Congress as a whole nor its local Councils have failed to realize that these successes are but beginnings.

We understand that greater struggles and harder work face us.

THE STRUGGLES AHEAD

We must find a way to secure jobs for nearly three million unemployed Negroes. This is an issue which hunger will not let us evade. Public utilities, which take from the Negro people millions of dollars each year do not have jobs for Negro boys and girls. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company employs 270,000 persons, but nowhere are Negro girls employed. One million men and women are on the pay rolls of the federal government, but the number of Negroes who have jobs above the grade of custodial and unskilled worker is less than one percent. Normal opportunities to work are denied by private industry and the federal government. We [illegible] not starve. We have the right to demand jobs on WPA, adequate relief and social services. It is our right, it is our duty, to resist the wholesale slashing of WPA rolls (which has already driven nearly 300,000 jobless Negro workers back to the breadline) even though those cuts come at the suggestion of the President of the United States himself. The reductions of the administration in WPA, CCC, relief and in other social service vital to the people in this critical period, are particularly inimical to the welfare of the underprivileged Negro families of the land.

Three million Negro people in the South are denied the right to vote. This was not ordained by God. It is a man-made evil, and we condemn it as such. Our Congress has the duty to say to the politicians of the country that no party will get the four million Negro votes in the North which does not guarantee the ballot to the votes of Negroes in the South. This means repeal the poll tax laws in the session of Congress.

Lynching curses our land. Congress after Congress has refused to pass

the Anti-Lynching Bill. President after President has been silent in the face of this national crime. Our Congress must demand the passage of this act now. We are here to act as a mass lobby for the Anti-Lynching Bill.

Negro men have been clubbed. Negro women have been whipped. Negro children have been terrorized, as a wave of Klan terror sweeps the nation today. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice, but the criminals remain unpunished. Hundreds of Negro farmers have been held in peonage and semi-slavery in the South. Those matters have been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice, but the criminals remain unpunished. We meet in this Congress to charge the present administration with strict accountability for the protection of the lives and safety of Negro people.

WE CONDEMN MARTIN DIES

Martin Dies, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, has shielded the Ku Klux Klan from investigation. Who is this Martin Dies? What kind of democracy does he represent? Martin Dies comes from a state where poll tax laws and lily-white primaries effectively disfranchise the Negro people, and a large section of white workers as well. Martin Dies comes from Texas, where mob rule, lynch law, and Klan violence are characteristic. This man from Texas holds his seat in Congress by virtue of the votes of less than five percent of the voting population in his district. He voted against the Anti-Lynching Bill. He is opposed to labor legislation. He voted to slash WPA appropriations and to curtail vital social services affecting the health and welfare of the people.

Martin Dies is not the one to teach us Americanism. The Negro people have learned their Americanism from Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. It is time that the masses of the Negro people should understand the role of Martin Dies. He is the front man for American reaction. Just as the Ku Klux Klan tars and feathers its victims, so the Dies Committee smears labor organizations, youth organizations, Negro organizations and other progressive organizations fighting for the welfare and democratic rights of the American people.

But we can only fight against the reaction of Martin Dies by refusing to be trapped by the wave of red hysteria which Dies has created. We are the ones to decide the policies and the composition of our Congress. This Congress will not substitute the judgment of Martin Dies for the democratically registered wishes of the members of this organization. This is real democracy. This is Americanism. The National Negro Congress cannot, must not and will not take this road. The road we take is the road which demands the immediate dissolution of the subversive and un-American Dies Committee.

STAY OUT OF WAR

For the Negro people today nothing is more important than their calm determination to keep firmly to the path which leads to economic justice and complete citizenship rights in our democracy. This is a difficult task at a time when war rages in Europe and the mongers of war are preparing a blood bath for the millions of the youth of our nation. We shall do well to heed the thrice-repeated warning of John L. Lewis against "ventures abroad", ~~while there is growing misery at home.~~ The Negro people who suffer most from the economic maladies of depression and unemployment, who are deprived of the simplest democratic rights, who are subjected to human indignity and oppression are fully aware that involvment in this war is no solution to our problems. We remember the riots, the lynchings, the hatreds which accompanied our participation in the last imperialist war. We do not want these things to happen again. We want peace.

We want peace for ourselves and America. We want peace and freedom for the people of India - of China - of Africa. We want peace for the world! The position which our Congress should take on the question of war should be to oppose loans, credits, arms or any other aid direct or indirect to either side of the belligerents. We speak out firmly against aid to Nazi Germany. But we speak out with equal firmness against aid to imperialist Britain and imperialist France. The administration is taking sides in this imperialist conflict. Its actions menace our neutrality and our peace. We must join with labor, we must join with youth to

insist upon an end to this disastrous policy.

What do the Negro people want? Not war - but peace; not guns - but jobs; not death - but life; not reaction - but democratic rights. That is why there is an increasing ground swell in the ranks of labor saying the "YANKS ARE NOT COMING". That is why the youth of our nation are declaring "there is no future in Flanders Field." That is why the Negro people are saying we shall not die in the war of American imperialism. We have a war of our own against hunger, against lynching, against peonage, against Jim Crowism, for the right to vote and the right to work. The enemy of American democracy is at home. Let us fight that enemy here.

The attempt is being made to establish as a guage of one's loyalty to the United States that of willingness to follow American imperialism in whichever direction it finds it necessary to go - be it toward war or toward reaction. I, for one, cannot accept this as a test of my Americanism. And I believe the overwhelming majority of the Negro people join me in this position.

I refuse to believe the Negro people can be led by American imperialism into an unjust, imperialist war abroad.

War is a convenient diversion to needs of the people, as excellently pointed out by Mr. Lewis Friday night. One of the chief diversions being practised by the makers of war, by American reactionaries, by reactionaries everywhere, is the attempt to create diversion by organizing and inciting a war against the Soviet Union.

I have visited the Soviet Union. I have talked to the Soviet people. I have witnessed their accomplishments and achievements. I know of their ideals and aspirations. I have witnessed the real and genuine equal rights and freedom of its many minority people. I have witnessed their many nations and people busy and working in unity, collaboration and peace. I know of their deep friendship and aid to all oppressed peoples. And on the basis of that experience and knowledge, which is shared by tens of thousands of people, I firmly believe that the American people will refuse to fall victims of anti-Soviet adventures, will refuse to join American

or world imperialism in any attack against the Soviet people.

Let us have an end of excursions abroad. Let us militantly oppose every effort to involve our country in war. Let us stand resolutely for peace. Let the slogan resound loudly - "Keep America Out of the War". Let us unite in order to solve the grave problems which face our people here at home. That is why we came here today. The major problem facing us is the economic, the social and political plight of our people! It is our responsibility and the mandate from those whom we represent to build the National Negro Congress, its local councils and sub-divisions into a powerful organization which will win for the Negro people, in alliance with its great allies, jobs, security, civil liberty, democracy and freedom.

BUILD FOR UNITY

We have had experiences in building unity among the Negro people. Our form as a federation of existing Negro organizations both nationally and locally has proven to be the best practical device for accomplishing that unity.

Our form, which permits the greatest self initiative and autonomy for local councils, remains a sound organizational principle. If there be those organizations which do not find it possible to affiliate in the broad federation of the Congress, the answer to this problem is not to establish ourselves as a competing organization to such groups. The answer is rather to work more patiently and more cooperatively to achieve unity with them. We must, of course, make possible wide dissemination of the experiences and the victories of our local council and our national body through the development of a systematic program, of a news bulletin in which to exchange ideas between local councils, and stage local and regional conferences on the human needs of the Negro people in the development of a comprehensive program for Negro women and youth. We today must further perfect and strengthen our organizational tasks as I have outlined structure, we must draft our constitution, we must perfect the instrument to lead and unite our people in the coming tense days. And in times like these such organizational tasks as I have outlined become the immediate order of the day if we are to obtain our objectives.

We shall remain, of course, true to the inviolate principle which I had the privilege of enunciating at our first Congress, namely, that the Congress shall be a non-partisan body, welcoming to its ranks organizations of all political faiths, as long as they are willing sincerely to work and collaborate in the program to which our Congress is committed, whether they be Socialist or Republican, Communist or Democrat or Independent. Such has been our policy since our beginning and our victories have proven us correct. And it may be said that where we have failed, or where greater gains might have been made, it has been due solely to the lack of a greater unity in this direction.

WE WELCOME THE OUTSTRETCHED HAND OF LABOR

Five years of struggle teach us that further gains for our people depend upon two factors: one, the degree of unity and collaboration which we can create amongst the Negro people and their organizations on the basis of a common unifying program; secondly, to the degree which our united Negro people's movement is linked with and collaborates with the movements and organizations of its friends and its allies - the trade unions, the youth movement, the farmers, and all other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace. We are Americans and as such join our strength to the rest of the progressive American people.

Long has the Negro worker awaited the extended hand of organized labor. Are there those who would have us turn our back upon the friendly offer made by John L. Lewis in the name of labor Friday night? If there be such we are doubtful of their loyalty to the cause of our people.

The day which we have long awaited has now arrived. The possibility is before us to march forward to the accomplishment of those objectives which will advance the cause of our people. We have before us the extended hand of organized labor, the millions of organized youth, the organizations and forces of millions of Americans, willing to march side by side with us.

The Negro people are happy to accept the invitation of John L. Lewis to

come to a working agreement with the mighty forces of labor and to go forward to victory, for victory can now be won. I have no doubt that the delegates to this great Congress will unanimously and enthusiastically accept the invitation of Mr. Lewis to arrive at a working agreement of the National Negro Congress with forces of progressive labor, on the basis of the program of our Congress.

Let us stand for progress, for peace, for security, democracy; jobs, civil rights, American standards. And let Unity be the instrument of achieving these.

This is the way we will win victory, - and victory will be won!

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

We would like to place this report, together with the Constitution of the National Negro Congress, and other informational material into a single printed pamphlet for mass distribution. We would like to do this immediately. It can be done if every one who reads this report will send us at least one dollar by return mail. If enough contributions come in we will print the pamphlet, if not - then for each one dollar received we will send you 25 copies of the mimeographed report. If we print the report, each dollar contributed will bring you 25 copies of the new pamphlet. Let us hear from you now. Help us bring the story of the Congress to masses of the Negro People.

Send Contributions to the National Negro Congress, 717 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates:

-Five years ago this May, a relatively small group of men and women met together in Washington to plan the first National Negro Congress. They issued a Call and 1,000 delegates came to Chicago in 1936; and, on a common meeting ground gave organized expression to the deepest human need of the Negro masses. That Congress established the National Negro Congress. Again in Philadelphia, in October of 1937, representatives of more than eleven hundred organizations joined hands in the constructive effort to further consolidate the unity of the Negro people together with the progressive friends of Negro freedom in the struggle for equality of opportunity and for the democratic rights of the Negro.

And now again, for the third time, in the Capital of the nation, we have come together in even greater number to carry out the same objectives.

In this hall today are the finest creative artists in America. The coal miners, marine workers, food workers, shareroppers are here. From all industries in the land they are here. Fresh from a magnificent Fourth Southern Negro Youth Congress the best representatives of Negro youth in the south are here. Elected representatives of city, state and federal government are with us. Leaders of Labor, of the Church, of great civic and fraternal bodies - Negro and white - sit in this hall side by side. From California, Texas, Massachusetts, Illinois - from nearly every state in the Union - there have come delegates to the Capital of our country to give a common voice to the needs and demands of the Negro people.

What distinguishes this Congress from all others is that today the Negro people are not fighting alone. They are invited to unite with broad strong labor and liberal forces who have joined with us here in one common struggle. This was indicated in the historic address of John L. Lewis Friday night. If I know the sentiment of these delegates of my people we welcome the proffered hand of labor tendered to us by Mr. Lewis that night; and we are glad to cooperate with labor and all other forces for justice, freedom and a better life for Negro people.

To Delegates to the Third National Negro Congress

DEAR DELEGATE:

The Third National Negro Congress is over. But the decisions of this epoch-making national meeting must be carried out. This is your job. It is your job to take these decisions back to the members of your organization: to get them to act NOW on important resolutions adopted at the Congress. With your support the National Negro Congress will fulfill its purpose as the united effort of the Negro people and the friends of Negro freedom to win economic and social justice for our people, to keep our country out of war.

In order to aid you in making your report as quickly as possible, we send you now basic information concerning the Congress: a copy of my report to the Third Congress, a copy of the address of John L. Lewis, and this statement on the composition of the Congress, a summary of the major resolutions adopted by the Congress with an indication as to what action is immediately requested of you and your organization. We had to make a choice between waiting until stenographic transcripts of all Congress material was available or sending you immediately the principal information. We have chosen the latter course. Within a few weeks complete copies of other important speeches and resolutions will be made available to you. For the present we hope the material we do send will help you in your report to your organization.

Here are things you can do for us: 1. Note carefully the suggestions made for handling resolutions by your organization. 2. Send us a report giving us information as to the action taken by your organization on your report to them. We need to keep in closest touch with you on these matters. Let us know what is happening in your community and your organization so that we can include it in the national bulletin which we plan to issue shortly.

Let us have your suggestions as to our work. Let us know how the National Negro Congress or its local council in your community can help your organization in solving its problems. It is in this way that we can guarantee the maximum results from our combined efforts to win a better day for the Negro people.

Cordially yours,

John P. Davis
National Secretary.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS

Because of the controversy which it has caused we quote in full the resolution on UNITY WITH LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE.

WHEREAS: Five years of struggle teach us that the further gains for our people depend upon two factors: one, the degree of unity and collaboration which we can create amongst the Negro people and their organizations on the basis of a common unifying program and two the degree which our united Negro peoples movement is linked with and collaborates with the movements and organizations of its friends and its allies—the trade unions the youth movement, the farmers and all other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace, and

WHEREAS: Long has the Negro worker awaited the extended hand of organized labor, and

WHEREAS: The Negro people should be happy to accept the invitation of John L. Lewis to come to a working agreement with the mighty forces of labor and to go forward to victory, be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the delegates to this Congress unanimously and enthusiastically accept the invitation of Mr. Lewis to the National Negro Congress to arrive at a working agreement with Labor's Non-Partisan League on the basis of the program of the Congress.

RESOLVED: That a Committee of five be appointed by the incoming Executive Committee to explore the possibilities by which this Congress can work together with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

Now, this resolution means just what it says. It does not mean that the Congress has affiliated with the C.I.O. or any other labor body. It does not mean that we will be subject to direction from any body outside of the democratically elected National Executive Board of the Congress whom you placed in office. The National Negro Congress has on hundreds of occasions given its best efforts in support of A. F. of L. unions. It will continue to do so. On the BASIS OF THE PROGRAM OF THE CONGRESS the committee elected at our national executive board meeting will EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES of working with Labor's Non-Partisan League. In this same spirit we will seek cooperation with ANY organization which will support our program for jobs, peace, democratic rights, for passage of the anti-lynching bill, the Geyer poll tax bill and other legislation vital to the needs of the Negro people. We ask you to place this resolution before your organization in this light, in order to do away with the wild rumors which enemies of unity are attempting to spread.

Because of the grave problems facing the country because of the war hysteria, we quote in full our resolution on the IMPERIALIST WAR:

WHEREAS: The Negro people of America, though having fought with bravery and heroism in every war America has fought from Boston

Commons to Flanders Fi[illegible] are none the less even today jim-crow[illegible], lynched, held in peonage, disfranchis[illegible] and discriminated against in their n[illegible]e land, and

WHEREAS: There is again a distinct danger of American involvement in war, a war already raging on the continent of Europe, and

WHEREAS: The present war abroad is an imperialist war between equally imperialist rivals and is in no sense a war for the protection of the rights of small nations, and

WHEREAS: The false slogans of this war as a "war for Democracy" or a "war for the defense of small nations" should not confuse us, but should serve only to remind us of our own oppression and subordinate status in our own country, and

WHEREAS: The present drive of the Administration to mobilize the American people to support either side in the war cannot receive consideration of the Negro people because we have ourselves not yet secured full citizenship rights, federal protection against lynching, the complete right to vote, the elimination of the lily-white primaries and the poll tax, or the abolition of the entire system of Jim-Crow discrimination, in other words we have not received freedom or democracy, and

WHEREAS: The Roosevelt government has reversed its policy from one of concern for the welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war, extension of trade advantages to the British and French, meanwhile slashing appropriations for WPA, neglecting to establish Federal Health services, abandoning the housing program, which in policy is detrimental to the interests of the American people and brings us step by step closer to involvement in this imperialist war, and

WHEREAS: The Negro people are denied employment in the expanding aircraft and "war babies" industry, while in the Army and Navy they are discriminated against and regimented into the most menial positions, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the National Negro Congress declares that the Negro people have everything to lose and nothing to gain by American involvement in the imperialist war and sharply condemns the administration for the steps it has taken and the partiality already shown, and

DEMANDS of the Administration that it take no further action which might involve our country in war; and the National Negro Congress further

DECLARES that the battle for democracy lies at home in the war against hunger and misery, and for jobs, security, opportunity and prosper-

National [illegible]egro Congress

RESOLVES to aid [illegible] the organization of the Negro people [illegible] act in concert with labor, youth and all other anti-war forces to keep our country at peace.

We ask you at the earliest possible time to adopt this resolution in your organization and send copies of your endorsement to the President of the United States and to the National Negro Congress.

The Congress adopted resolutions for the passage of the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill. THE NEGRO PEOPLE ARE AT THE CROSSROADS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION. WE URGE YOU TO ACT NOW. Have your organization immediately adopt a resolution asking the Senate to pass this bill. Send copies of your resolution to Senator Alben Barkley, and Senator Charles L. McNary, at the SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C. Send copies also to the Senators from your state. Send us copies of your resolution.

We are opposed to the Norton and Smith amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. Reactionaries in Congress even now are trying to destroy the protection given labor by this Act. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU WRITE TODAY TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS OPPOSING ANY CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

The Congress adopted resolutions for the passage of the Geyer Poll-Tax Repeal Bill. It is vitally important that the Congressmen and Senators from your district receive immediately from hundreds of members in your organization post cards and letters insisting upon the passage of this bill in this session of Congress. Pass resolutions on the subject and send them to CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS E. WALTER OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C., asking immediate favorable action on this bill.

The Congress adopted resolutions calling for passage of the MARCANTONIO STANDARD WORKS ACT to guarantee adequate appropriations for relief and W.P.A. Support this bill by resolutions from your organization and letters from its members to the HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

We are on record in support of the AMERICAN YOUTH ACT. Let us flood the SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR with resolutions and telegrams in support of this bill.

The housing program of the federal government is at a standstill because Congress refuses to permit the United States Housing Authority to make 800 million dollars in new loans to continue low cost housing and slum clearance projects. ONLY A LITTLE TIME REMAINS. WRITE TODAY TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN DEMANDING PASSAGE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WAGNER-STEAGALL AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

Finally, we urge immediate action by your organization in support of action IN THIS session of Congress

for increased appropriations for the Farm Security Administration, for passage of the Farm Debt Adjustment Bill, for retention of the tenancy program, the stamp plan and the parity payment plan in the pending Agricultural Supply Bill, for passage on the Thomas bill for federal aid to education and the Wagner Health Bill. Please understand that these five measures are vitally important to every Negro in America. Act separately on each bill. Get hundreds of postcards at your next meeting and have your members sit down then and write cards to their congressmen and senators on each of the important matters mentioned above. Organize in your group a committee to see to it that the maximum amount of expression on these vital measures gets to members of Congress from your organization. Let us know what you were able to do. Keep us informed as to any answers you receive from members of Congress.

The resolutions outlined above are of IMMEDIATE VITAL IMPORTANCE. THEY ARE MANY IN NUMBER. BUT IF YOU ORGANIZE A COMMITTEE IN YOUR GROUP TO DO ITS UTMOST TO GET EVERY MEMBER IN YOUR ORGANIZATION TO TAKE THE ACTION SUGGESTED IN THIS LETTER THEN YOU WILL HAVE DONE YOUR PART TO WIN VICTORY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE. WE CANNOT REST. WE CANNOT SLEEP. WE CANNOT NEGLECT ACTION ON A SINGLE ONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES OUTLINED ABOVE.

In addition to the resolutions requiring immediate response on your part before Congress adjourns there follow other resolutions which require immediate action. The first of these on the Dies Committee we quote in full:

WHEREAS: We who aspire for a truly free and democratic America view the activities of the Dies Committee and its agents as a great threat to our fundamental rights, and

WHEREAS: Instead of investigating real "un-American" activities such as peonage in the South and the Ku Klux Klan, Mr. Dies has viciously attacked and slandered all liberal and progressive groups, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies has used "un-American" tactics by raiding homes and seizing property without warrant, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies is a member of the southern reactionary bloc of Congressmen that have been fighting with all foul means against the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Dies holds his seat in Congress by the votes of 4% of the electorate, the remainder being disqualified by the poll tax, therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Third National Negro Congress goes on record as wholeheartedly endorsing the stinging rebuke handed to Mr. Dies by Judge Welsh of Philadelphia and Judge Letts of the District of Columbia, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Third National Negro Congress goes on record as demanding the immediate dissolution of the Dies Committee.

Your organization should adopt this resolution and send copies to us and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. ACT NOW IN DEFENSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

We urge also that every delegate and every organization represented send to the Pardon Board of the State of Alabama a request for the immediate pardon of five innocent Scottsboro Boys.

We urge also that each of you send a letter to the Attorney General of the United States demanding instant prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and the persons responsible for maintaining peonage farms in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Let us make America know that the Negro people will not take the terror of the Klan and the slavery of the peon farms lying down. Your letters and resolutions by the thousands pouring into the Department of Justice will force them to uphold their sworn duty to protect the constitutional rights of Negro Americans.

HOW IS THE CONGRESS ORGANIZED?

The complete constitution of the Congress is soon to be published. There is room here for only a brief summary of the Constitution adopted by you.

It is important, however, that there be no misconception as to the purposes of the organization. For this reason we quote in full article II of the Constitution.

Article II

The objects of this organization are:

1. To secure the full rights of citizenship for the Negro people as guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Federal Constitution, through removal of the poll tax and all other forms of unconstitutional restrictions upon the right to vote.
2. To secure the right of the Negro people to be free from jim-crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching and mob violence and to work for the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation.
3. To secure employment for the Negro people free from all manner of job discrimination by governmental agencies and private industry.
4. To promote the cause of trade unionism among Negroes and to work for the organization of Negro workers into trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other trade union members.
5. To work for effective and adequate local, state and national programs for meeting the educational, health and housing needs of the people without discrimination with respect to geographical areas; and, to provide for security against old age, unemployment and want.
6. To foster the cultural development and expression of the Negro people; to spread the truth regarding

their traditions and contributions to American democracy; and, to combat all falsifications and distortions of their historic role in American life.

7. To promote the cause of peace; to aid the liberation of the oppressed peoples of Africa, West Indies, China, India, and Latin America, whose aspirations for freedom are one with ours; to oppose imperialist wars and oppression and to strive for the realization of a genuine brotherhood of man in our time.

8. To promote the spirit of unity and cooperation between the Negro and white people in a common struggle for their mutual welfare and advancement.

Article III provides that the organization shall be composed of affiliated national, state, local and community bodies. Charters to these groups are issued by and revocable by the National Executive Board which is the highest authority between conventions of the organization. A nominal charter fee to be set by the National Executive Board is provided for. Membership of local organizations in local councils of the Congress is subject to the determination of the local council.

Articles IV and V provide for officers of the organization (See list of officers in this document) and their duties. The President is responsible for the execution of the program of the organization, together with the other officers and the National Executive Board. The National Secretary is the chief administrative officer of the Congress. The National Treasurer, assisted by the National Financial Secretary, is charged with the responsibility for receipt and disbursement of all funds of the organization.

Article VI establishes a national youth council of 25 as an autonomous body, responsible for youth work of the Congress, with a national youth secretary as administrative officer for youth work.

Other articles provide for power to the National Executive Board to govern the affairs of the organization, raise revenue, employ necessary personnel, delegate its authority between meetings to an administrative committee, etc. Provision is also made for calling of conventions, amendment to the Constitution, etc.

WHO ATTENDED THE CONGRESS:

Your organization will want to know who attended the Congress. Here are the facts:

There were 1,285 duly accredited delegates from 29 states, 3 foreign countries (Haiti, Chili, Cuba) and the District of Columbia. In addition 28 organizations sent observers. Of the delegates 406 were under 25 years of age and 879 were above that age. Women delegates numbered 488; male delegates 796.

The representation from various types of organizations follows: Trade Unions—464; Churches—76; Women's groups—36; Fraternal organizations—66; Civic groups—237; Professional groups—38; Farm groups—26; Educational organizations—77; Youth groups—185; Business groups—10; Political organizations—40; Unemployment groups—30.

State representation was as follows: Alabama 10; Arkansas—8; California—3; Connecticut—48; Delaware—9; District of Columbia—173; Illinois—69; Indiana—19; Kansas—1; Kentucky—2; Louisiana — 3; Maryland — 31; Massachusetts — 42; Michigan—28; Minnesota—3; Mississippi—1; Missouri—8; New Jersey—15; New York—566; North Carolina—9; Ohio—34; Oklahoma—2; Pennsylvania—132; Rhode Island—4; South Carolina—2; Tennessee—7; Texas—6; Virginia—30; Wisconsin—1; West Virginia—12 and Haiti—1; Chili—1; Cuba—1.

WHO GUIDES THE POLICIES OF THE CONGRESS?

Here are the brief histories of the officers you elected:

President: MAX YERGAN, New York—Dr. Yergan is director of the International Committee on African Affairs and a member of the faculty of the City College of New York. For 17 years he was South African Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1934 for the "most distinguished service to the Negro People" in that year.

Vice-Presidents:

HENRY JOHNSON, Illinois—Mr. Johnson is Assistant National Director of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee. Under his leadership 20,000 Negro packinghouse workers have been brought into the trade union. Prior to this work Mr. Johnson was a national organizer among Negro steel workers.

REV. WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN, District of Columbia—Rev. Jernagin is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. He is national president of the Sunday School and Baptist Young Peoples Union with more than one million members.

MRS. FAY ALLEN, California—Mrs. Allen is president of the Los Angeles Council of the National Negro Congress. She is a member of the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, having been elected to this office by 117,000 votes; the highest number of votes ever polled for a Negro candidate for public office.

REV. OWEN WHITFIELD, Missouri.—Rev. Whitfield is international vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. He is a member of the Commission appointed by the Governor of Missouri to investigate conditions among workers. He was the leader of the famous "roadside strike" of 4,000 Negro and white evicted tenant farmers which brought national attention to the problems of the sharecropper.

DR CHARLES A. LEWIS Pennsylvania.—Dr. Lewis is president of the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress. He has been active in civic work in Philadelphia for more than a quarter of a century.

DR. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Massachusetts.—Dr. Simmons is one of the leaders of Negro Congress work in New England. He is an outstanding medical practitioner.

National Secretary: JOHN P. DAVIS, District of Columbia.—Mr. Davis is a graduate of Bates College and Harvard Law School. He was executive secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery for three years and has been national secretary of the Congress since its beginning. He is Vice-President of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare.

National Treasurer: U. SIMPSON TATE, District of Columbia.—Mr. Tate has had ten years experience as an accountant with the National Benefit Life Insurance Company. He is a graduate of Lincoln University and secured his M.A. from the Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania. At present he is a finance officer at the National Office of the United Federal Workers of America.

Financial Secretary: JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Georgia.—Mr. Bostick attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. He is an accountant and bookkeeper by profession; he has served for two years as treasurer of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress.

National Youth Secretary: LOUIS BURNHAM, New York.—Mr. Burnham is president of the Harlem Youth Federation; graduate of the City College of New York.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

The National Executive Board is composed of persons coming from 18 states and 22 cities in those states. There are nine women and 40 men on this board. Seven are under 25 and 42 are over 25. The complete list follows:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Alabama

EDWARD E. STRONG, Birmingham

California

MRS. FAY ALLEN, Los Angeles
MR. ROBERT S. ROBINSON, Los Angeles

Connecticut

MISS BARBARA RICE, South Norwalk
DONALD WHEELDIN, Hartford

District of Columbia

JULIUS A. BOSTICK, Washington
MISS THELMA DALE, Washington
JOHN P. DAVIS, Washington
WILLIAM ALPHEUS HUNTON, Washington
WILLIAM H. HERNAGIN, Washington
JEROME OSBORNE, Washington
U. SIMPSON TATE, Washington
SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS, Washington

Illinois

MISS HAZEL HAYES, Chicago
HENRY JOHNSON, Chicago
WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, Chicago
HERBERT M. SMITH, Chicago

Indiana

GEORGE KIMBLEY, Gary
EDWARD J. WINTERS, South Bend

Maryland

H. W. PATTERSON, Baltimore

Massachusetts

ATTORNEY J. S. R. BOURNE, Boston
DR. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Boston

Michigan

HODGES MASON, Detroit
LeBRON SIMMONS, Detroit

Missouri

OWEN WHITFIELD, St. Louis

New Jersey

MRS. G. A. ROBINSON, Orange

New York

LOUIS BURNHAM, New York City
CHARLES COLLINS, New York City
JAMES W. FORD, New York City
THOMAS JASPER, New York City
MISS NAOMI T. KORNACKER, New York City
LOUIS MANNING, Brooklyn
MALCOLM MARTIN, Brooklyn
MRS. MILDRED H. MEYERS, New York City
WALTER ROARK, New York City
JOHN W. ROBINSON, New York City
MISS JESSIE SCOTT, Brooklyn
MAX YERGAN, New York City

Ohio

HERMAN BROWN, Akron

Pennsylvania

MISS GOLDIE ERVIN, Philadelphia
B. F. GIBSON, Pittsburgh
FRED HOLMES, Pittsburgh
WILLIAM JASON, Philadelphia
CHARLES A. LEWIS, Philadelphia

Rhode Island

MISS ETHEL BROWN, Providence
HENDRIK M. VAN LEESTEN, Providence

South Carolina

JAMES A. BRIER, Greenville

Texas

MASON SMITH, Waco

Virginia

W. H. CROCKER, Suffolk
JAMES JACKSON, Richmond
JAMES R. JOHNSON, Roanoke

Let Us March Forward

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL TREASURER

FELLOW CONGRESS MEMBERS:

To organize a meeting such as the Third National Negro Congress has required a tremendous expenditure of Congress funds. Now we are faced with the task of carrying on that work without a full of printing pamphlets, our Constitution, and a national bulletin; of paying salaries and office expense promptly; of sending into the field for organizing purposes our National Secretary and other Congress officials. TO BUILD UNITY AMONG THE NEGRO PEOPLE REQUIRES MONEY. If you were inspired by the epoch-making Congress just completed will you go before your organization at its next meeting and ask for an immediate appropriation to be sent to the National Office for its work. The efficiency of that office will depend on your immediate response. I urge you now to secure personal contributions as well as organizational contributions and send them in at once to make it possible for our national program to be carried out. OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU. Each locality will be given credit on its quota for sums you send in. We know that each local council has its own problems. But we urge them and you to put your shoulders to the wheels and to make the month of May the period when every possible financial aid will be rushed to the national office, so that it in turn may be able to give the maximum possible assistance to each local council. In this way both national and local work may continue on an even keel. LET US MARCH FORWARD TOGETHER

U. Simpson Tate
National Treasurer.

P.S.—Help us distribute this delegates' report to your mem[illegible]hip. Help us print the National Secretary's report and other valuable Congress material. You can secure [illegible] this printed document for $3.50 per hundred. For the dollar we will send you 25 copies of the Secretary' [illegible] in your orders now.

[redacted]

Randolph Assails Negro Congress

[illegible] Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (A. F. L.), declared today that Communists had [illegible]

[illegible] who declined reelection as head of the Negro Congress, issued a statement asserting the [illegible]

[illegible]

2/29/40

Negro Congress Takes Soviet Cash; Bolt Asked

Work News — 4/29/40

A. F. of L. members were urged today to bolt the National Negro Congress which, at its annual meeting here yesterday, accepted money from the Communist Party, pledged political co-operation with the C. I. O. and denounced President Roosevelt's foreign policy.

A. Philip Randolph of New York, head of the A. F. of L. Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, declined re-election for a third term as president and resigned from the congress because it accepted contributions from the Communist Party and C. I. O. unions and [illegible] a defense of [illegible]

[illegible]

GREEN'S SPOKESMAN

Cornelius Maiden of Birmingham, A. F. of L. Negro Organizer who said he attended the sessions as a personal representative of A. F. of L. President William Green, said he would confer with Mr. Green to urge that the federation's executive council forbid A. F. of L. members to join the congress.

Edgar Brown, boarded president of the unaffiliated United Government Employes Union, was heard as he opposed a resolution, adopted almost unanimously, which charged that "the Roosevelt government has reversed its policy from one of concern for the welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war."

"God help the Negro people if for any reason we do not stand by the policies of President Roosevelt," he shouted. "I know that I speak for the Negro people, either I probably do not speak for some of the white Communists in the audience."

More than [illegible] persons attended some of the sessions in the departmental auditorium, but the final report of the credentials committee showed [illegible] delegates, of whom [illegible] were white. Twenty-nine states were represented and [illegible] of the delegates were under [illegible].

Mr. Randolph warned that the congress would lose its mass appeal by close ties to any political party or any trade union group. He said it should refuse financial aid from any except Negroes.

"The ground for my belief is that experience shows that where you get money you also get your ideas and control," he added.

There was only a scattering of applause as Mr. Randolph spoke, but there was a roar of approval as Max Yergan of New York was presented as the unopposed nominee for president. Mr. Yergan is a [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

National Negro Congress

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. ROBERT G. ALLEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[illegible]

[illegible]

NEGROES

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS - "THE COMMUNIST", May 1936 - p. 487

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
(PHILADELPHIA)

"Daily Worker", 10/16/37, p. 1

December 3, 1938

"OUR GREAT PRESIDENT"

From time to time there is much talk about Communism's support of Mr. Roosevelt and his Communist-infested New Deal political machine. There are charges and denials. The Communist, revering neither oath nor honor, willingly swears to anything or denies anything to promote his cause. The only thing the Communist cannot deny is the printed statement in an official organ of the Party or a subsidiary.

The "National Negro Congress", successor to the old Communist "American Negro Labor Congress", met in Pittsburgh in October in annual conference. On October 28th, Communist Jas. W. Ford, Communist candidate for Vice-President of the United States in past elections, addressed the Congress, and the main theme of his speech was a plea to support the New Deal. Paying specific tribute to Mr. Roosevelt, Ford stated in part:

> "I feel confident that in Pennsylvania, as in New York, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and throughout the country our people will rise to the occasion, that they will stand behind our great President Roosevelt, whose stature approaches that of the great martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, and in our love for Lincoln, and what he stood for, we must support the best aims of President Roosevelt, by joining the forces of progress behind him.
>
> "We Communists say we believe in and work for socialism. We say we defend and extend democracy. Is there a contradiction? No, not at all. Webster's dictionary defines democracy as a form of government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the people collectively. Abraham Lincoln phrased it more eloquently than that when he said 'Government of the people, by the people and for the people must not perish from the earth.' The Communist Party does not wish or intend to force Communism on the people. The majority must come to that of their own free will. The Communist Party, in the past, in the present and in the future, has, does and shall continue to advocate democracy and socialism." (Emphasis supplied.)

Here we have the positive statement of the leading Communist organizer among the Negro people. As always, subtleness is the basic principle of Communist presentation. Ford's tribute to Roosevelt as "our great President Roosevelt" leaves no room for denial that Roosevelt is being accepted as the American "Kerensky" to accomplish the preliminary psychological work to precede the anticipated revolution.

The adoption of Lincoln as the bait for Communism is a clever piece of Communist work. The attempt to pervert Webster's definition of democracy to characterize Communism and blend them is the usual propaganda.

[illegible] the Communist Party. The American Negro will not long follow any organization which accepts direction and control from any white organization.

In the last national executive committee meeting in New York City, Brother John P. Davis was authorized to go out and borrow $1,500 to help put the third congress over. He informed me that he had borrowed it and mentioned the name of a man. I was given no specific identity of the man. What was the source of this money? The delegates to the congress should know. [illegible] the source of the money with which the congress is run will also be the source of its ideas, policies, and control.

[illegible]

Notwithstanding the fact that these are serious and grave moments for the present and future of all democracies, I am firmly of the opinion that the Negro because of his unfaltering trust in God, and his love for peace, tranquillity, and justice and because of his spirit of long forbearing and tolerance will be the last of American minority groups to yield in any degree to these approaches and appeals from the agents of subversive propaganda. In this connection I should like to call the attention of white America to the fact that the Negro should be treated with fairness and justice in all matters. How long will white America disregard the rights of this group and expect it to withstand the teachings of those who are unfriendly to our country?

If there should ever come a day when the Negro yields to these influences it will be because of the activities of such white organizations in our country as the Ku Klux Klan and other similar organizations founded and sustained on racial prejudice. I think white America should take due notice and immediately modify its attitude in Government and in economic opportunity toward the Negro, give him the same chance and the same consideration that is given all other racial groups. If this is done there need never be any fear of the Negro going astray.

[illegible]

The Communist Party and the Negro in the United States

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. ARTHUR W. MITCHELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1940

STATEMENT BY A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, at this time, when there is rumor of much subversive influence at work in the United States, it is only natural for attention to be turned toward the American Negro, who constitutes our largest minority group and who, because of his economic status and political weakness, furnishes the most fertile field for subversive activities in this country. There is no doubt but that there is being made a very serious effort on the part of the agents of subversive propaganda to enlist and organize the Negro against this Government. I am therefore calling attention to a statement made recently by A. Philip Randolph, the former President of the National Negro Congress, an organization which is thought to be dominated by communistic influences and partially financed by [illegible] Communists.

[illegible]

(By A. Philip Randolph)

[illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM 1 [illegible]
THIS [illegible] AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-949

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
WASHINGTON, D. C.	10-9-42	7-31; 9-12,16,19,22-42	[redacted] HP:ACA

b7c

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: National Negro Congress leaders enrolling in Civilian Defense work. Organization continues militant in demand for equality for negroes, and most recent project has been meetings to persuade Capital Transit Company to employ negro bus drivers and street car operators. Cooperated with Communist Party in demanding release of EARL BROWDER. National Negro Congress has joined the Communist Party and others in demand for immediate second front. [redacted]

b7D

- P -

b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Washington, D. C., dated October 8, 1941.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

A letter from the Bureau to the Baltimore Field Division, dated February 21, 1942, a copy of which was sent to the Washington Field Office, enclosed copies of reports of [redacted] Baltimore, Maryland, reflected that the Party Line at present was to help in every way possible to defeat HITLER. It was stated that all Party members would volunteer their services in Civilian Defense as air wardens and teachers in defense methods, and the Party members in all organizations were to bring pressure on the

b7D

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[illegible] 6727-

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members of the other organizations to support all measures relative to defense. The Baltimore members of the Negro Labor Congress were to ask all members of that congress to volunteer as air raid wardens, and the Baltimore Communists were instructed to meet a party by the name of HENRY THOMAS from Washington, D. C., at an industrial convention in Washington on December 15, and to support THOMAS or his co-workers in whatever proposals they make, [redacted] b7C

In keeping with the instructions as set out by [redacted] it is noted that in an article appearing in the Evening Star, Washington, D. C., under date line of October 23, 1941, it stated that twelve colored leaders enrolled as Civilian Defense volunteers, and that a conference was scheduled for the following Sunday to mobilize negro citizens in the defeat of HITLER and Hitlerism, the Chairman of the sponsoring group being Reverend WILLIAM H. JERNIGAN, President of the National Baptist Sunday School Convention, and who, incidentally, has long been affiliated with the National Negro Congress. Those who signed up with the Volunteer Service Committee for volunteer work in the Civilian Defense set-up in Washington, D. C., included THELMA DALE, President of the District of Columbia Youth Federation and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Negro Congress. JOHN P. DAVIS and GEORGE B. MURPHY, National and Administrative secretaries, respectively, of the National Negro Congress, (it is noted that the latter should be GEORGE B. MURPHY, JR.) Dr. C. HERBERT MARSHALL, President, District Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. EDWARD F. HARRIS, Acting President of the Federation of Civic Associations, Professor DOXIE WILKERSON of Howard University, (member of the Executive Committee of the National Negro Congress and affiliated with other front organizations) Dr. GOODMAN, Secretary of the Washington Urban League, Reverend R. W. BROOKS, Pastor of Lincoln Temple Congregational Church, Dr. HOWARD H. LONG, Board of Education Examiner, JAMES C. ARNOLD, Secretary of the Twelfth Street Y.M.C.A., and Mrs. VELMA WILLIAMS, member of the School Board. b7D

On October 26, 1941, a meeting was held at the Columbia Elks Lodge Number 85[redacted] This meeting was known as "Action Conference to Mobilize Negro Citizens in the Defeat of Hitler and Hitlerism". [redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that at this meeting [redacted] ALPHEUS HUNTON, DOXIE WILKERSON, and JOHN P. DAVIS, who were taking a very active part at a meeting of negro groups reported under date line of November 29, 1941, in the Daily Worker. Speeches were made by Reverend WILLIAM E. JERNIGAN who presided over the meeting, Mrs. MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, Dr. F. J. ANDERSON of Howard University, Mrs. THELMA WILLIAMS of the Civic Association, and others. Mrs. BETHUNE, in b7D b7C,D

his speech, according to the Daily Worker, stated, "We must defeat Hitler--yes--and defeat the forces of Fascism in this country which shackle us to the past, deny us opportunity, stifle our progress, and create disunity.

"We must give our voices, our strength, our skills, yes, even our lives, to defend the national independence and sovereignty of the United States against Hitler and his lust for world conquest, not so much for what America is, but for what America can be."

The article went on to state that a continuations committee was set up by the conference with the task of calling a mass meeting within the next two weeks to mobilize the entire negro population of Washington in the fight against Hitlerism.

[redacted] b7D

sponsors for the "Committee for Action Conference to Mobilize Negro Citizens for the Defeat of Hitler and Hitlerism" were Reverend WILLIAM H. JERNIGAN, DOXIE A. WILKERSON, HOWARD H. LONG, U. SIMPSON TATE, CHARLES HOUSTON, THELMA DALE, W. A. HUNTON, and J. FINLEY WILSON.

The Daily Worker also reported a meeting under date line of November 16, 1941, of the National Conference of Negro Youth. The main speech of the evening was delivered by EARL B. DICKERSON, negro leader of Chicago, and speeches were also made by Reverend A. CLAYTON POWELL, JR., Pastor of the Harlem Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Miss AN DANIELS of the NAACP Student Chapter at Fisk University of Nashville, Tennessee. In his speech, DICKERSON attacked the Lindbergh appeasers, and race haters who would threaten the unity of the country by lynching and Jim Crowism, and he pledged the Fair Employment Practices Committee to do everything within its power to help eliminate the barriers against Negro workers in defense industries. He further stated that white students in the South had protested the Ku Kluxism of Governor TALMADGE, and said, "Just as in our war against Hitler abroad, the white youth are realizing that the fight for the equal rights of the Negro in America is their cause."

Under date line of December 9, 1941, the Daily Worker reported that the head of the National Negro Congress, Dr. MAX YERGAN, urged unity for the war, and was calling a meeting for December 9, of the organization's National Administrative Committee. Dr. YERGAN stated that the negro people are fully aware that renewed efforts by agents of Japan and Hitler, such as the America First Committee, must be combatted vigorously.

On December 16, 1941, the Daily Worker reported that the Negro organizations were called to an emergency working conference for the following Friday afternoon to plan a program for the defense of their homes, the call being issued by Dr. EDWARD F. HARRIS, President of the Federation of Civic Associations, and the Reverend W. H. JERNIGAN, Chairman of the Negro Committee for United Action to Defeat Hitler and Hitlerism. Negroes were urged to prepare against air raids and to take courses in first aid and chemical warfare. Dr. HARRIS called upon "each and every one of you to register now to defend not only yourselves but also your neighbor".

Activities of the National Negro Congress have indicated that they continue militant in demand for equality for negroes, and at present are vigorously supporting the war effort. In an article appearing in the Daily Worker under date line of November 18, 1941, it was stated that Brigadier General FREDERICK H. OSBORN, Chief of the War Department's Morale Division, appeared before the National Negro Congress in an informal talk in which he urged unity in all racial and religious groups. After General OSBORN's talk, JOHN P. DAVIS, Secretary of the National Negro Congress, summed up the policies of the congress in the light of the changed international situation in his administrative report. The report said in part:

"The Anglo-American mission to the Soviet Union, with the practical consequences flowing from this mission; the repeal of our Neutrality law; the Lend-Lease Act; the development of Americas's military defense program; the organization of the civilian life of America and the gearing of our great industrial machine to the defense needs of our country--are all vital and necessary answers to the menace of the Hitler tyranny which must have the support of all Americans." This attitude has been rather consistently expressed since Russia's entry into the present conflict.

[redacted] b7D,C

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

It is also noted from several news articles appearing in Washington papers that the National Negro Congress has been sponsoring the movement to include negroes in the personnel of the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. In this connection, the Negro Congress is reported to have sent congratulations to President ROOSEVELT and Secretary of the Navy FRANK KNOX on "their bold and patriotic action in smashing age-old color restrictions which have prevented the negro people from full service in the United States Navy".

The most recent activity of the National Negro Congress is based on the refusal of the Capital Transit Company to hire colored street car conductors or bus operators. The Washington Afro-American, under date line of August 8, 1942, reported that a delegation representing seven local and national organizations presented a petition to E. D. MERRILL, President of the Capital Transit Company, demanding that negroes be hired, but stated that MERRILL refused to give more than a flat "No" to their proposal, stating that the public would be irritated by the presence of colored street car conductors and bus drivers. The article continued to state that the petition presented was approved by some six hundred persons who attended the evening community sing sponsored by the National Negro Congress to build civilian morale and national unity.

According to the article, the resolution pointed out that the same public which receives colored postmen, policemen, firemen and taxi drivers would welcome skilled and experienced street car conductors and bus operators regardless of race, color, or creed, and that all Americans must be integrated into an all-out war production. The article continued by stating that a National Negro Congress statement cited the loss in essential transportation for war workers as a result of the Transit Company's discriminatory employment policy, and added, "This is

[redacted] our war program as effectively as if Germany, Italy and Japan had bombed our street car and bus routes." The article concluded by stating that the participants in the conference with the Capital Transit Company were JAMES SCOTT, local NAACP president, JACK MENK, CIO United Cafeteria Workers, the Reverend W. H. JERNIGAN, president of the National BYPU and Sunday School Congress, LOUIS WILLIAMS, United Painting Workers, WILLIAM JOHNSON, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, A.F. of L., HENRY RHINE, president, Industrial Union Council, and Mrs. DOROTHY STRANGE, Washington Council of the congress.

[redacted]

The Washington Field Office has been furnished by the Bureau with a copy of the petition actually presented to the Capital Transit Company, which was furnished to the Bureau [redacted] According to the letter from the Bureau to the Washington Field Office, dated August 26, 1942, all of the persons signing this petition, with the exception of MARGARET R. HUNTON, were present in the delegation which called on him and presented the resolution. The petition is as follows: b7(D)

"A RESOLUTION ON JOBS FOR NEGROES AS STREET CAR AND BUS OPERATORS AT THE CAPITAL TRANSIT COMPANY

WHEREAS, the Capital Transit Company recognizes that "transportation is essential to national defense" and advertises here and in distant cities for experienced street car and bus operators and

WHEREAS, the Capital Transit Company has created an artificial labor shortage in the nation's war capital by its persistent refusal to hire skilled and experienced Negro street car and bus operators, and

WHEREAS, one-third of the District's population is composed of Negroes willing and determined to aid in the nation's war effort,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Capital Transit Company, as well as the Federal Government live up to the Executive Order to abolish discrimination in war industries by hiring Negro street car and bus operators.

"SIGNED:

MARGARET R. HUNTON	UFWA - Local 28 - Library of Congress
HENRY RHINE	Washington Industrial Union, C.I.O.
JACK MINK	Cafeteria Workers #471
W. S. JOHNSON	Hotel and Rest. Employees Local 209
LOUIS WILLIAMS	United Painting Workers 1221 C.I.O.
DOROTHY S. STRANGE	National Negro Congress
(Rev.) W. H. JERNAGIN	Fraternal Council Negro Churches
JAMES E. SWEET	N.A.A.C.P. and K.A.A.
ROGER SMITH	

In connection with the petition presented to the Capital Transit Company, it might be stated that the National Negro Congress, through Miss GOLDIE WYLES, 1466 Columbia Road N. W., applied to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, for permission to use the grounds at United States Reservation Number 170, 10th and U Streets N. W., on each Thursday evening during August, 1942, to hold meetings to give speeches explaining the position of the National Negro Congress in the war. At a meeting held at this location on July 31, 1942, the Rev. W. H. JERNIGAN and JOHN P. DAVIS were the principal speakers, and Mrs. WILHELMINA B. PATERSON also appeared on the program. Mrs. SCHUYLER RICHARDSON led the International Workers Order songsters in a number of songs. This meeting was covered by Special Agent [redacted] and it was noted that the speeches were directed mainly against the failure of the Capital Transit Company to employ negroes, and requested that those present sign a petition protesting the stand of the transit company. b7c

Agent [redacted] noted that very few of the negroes present signed this petition, but that two negro women and a girl of Jewish extraction spent almost the entire two hours that the meeting was in progress in taking turns at signing names to the petition, these names apparently being fictitious or the names of acquaintances of these women. During the latter part of the meeting, OSCAR WEATHERFORD, [redacted] appeared and escorted these woman from the meeting. b7c

It was also noted that a green postcard, large quantities of which were observed by [redacted] b7D and which have been furnished to this office by [redacted] were passed out at this meeting. These cards contain the following:

"Dear Mr. President:
I am behind your second front agreement. It is needed now without further delay. I see danger to victory unless the Western Front is opened immediately."

A hand bill advocating a second front immediately was also passed out at this meeting. It was noted that CALVIN COUSINS, who has been observed by reporting Agent to have been active in various Communist sponsored meetings, was identified by Special Agent [redacted] as being active in the present meeting. b7C

It is noted that an article appearing in the Washington Tribune under date line of Saturday, August 8, 1942, disclosed that a GEORGE B. MURPHY, JR., Administrative Secretary of the National Negro Congress, issued the following statement:

"If we are to defeat Hitler quickly with minimum loss of the life of negro and white youth, a second front must be opened now. This means crushing Hitler and Europe between a huge land army of Britain and America in the West and the Soviet Union in the East. This is not a Russian question. It is an American question. Upon our answer to it depends the fate of American independence and the birth of a new world of freedom for our people."

It is noted that the present officers of the National Negro Congress, according to an article appearing in the Evening Star, Washington, D. C., under date line of November 27, 1941, consisted of Reverend M. CECIL MILLS of the First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.; W. A. HUNTON, Vice President; CHARLOTTE PAYNE, Secretary; JULIUS BOSTICK, Treasurer; and JOSEPH MATTHEWS, DOXIE A. WILKERSON, SHIRLEY MISLOVE, OLIVER PAGLER, MARCELLA MOORE, THELMA DALE, DOROTHY STRANGE, GRIFFIN RICHARDSON, JAMES HARRIS, JEWELL MAZIQUE, CALVIN COUSINS, the Reverend FRANK ALSTORK, WILLIAM S. JOHNSON, JONAS MITCHELL, LOUIS WILLIAMS, ARTHUR O. WALLER, and SANDOLPHRA ROBINSON, members of the executive committee.

It is noted in an article appearing in the Pittsburgh Courier under date line of June 13, 1942, that the national offices of the National Negro Congress were to be removed from Washington, D. C., to New York City effective July 1. The Washington office was to continue to operate as a national bureau of the organization, under the direct supervision of JOHN P. DAVIS, Executive Secretary, while GEORGE B. MURPHY, Administrative Secretary, must operate out of the national office.

FERDINAND SMITH, Secretary of the National Maritime Union CIO, was elected Treasurer of the Congress, and HENRY JOHNSON was removed as an officer and member of the Congress. It is also noted that the National Negro Congress was active in the drive to secure the release of EARL BROWDER. In the December 27, 1941 issue of the Daily Worker, it was stated that among those requesting the freedom of EARL BROWDER were GEORGE GOODMAN, Secretary of the Washington Urban League, Reverend WILLIAM H. JERNIGAN, President of the Baptist National Convention, OLIVER PALMER, President of the United Cafeteria Employees, Dr. WILLIAM STEWART NELSON, President of the School of Religion, Howard University, JAMES HARRIS, business agent of the Cafeteria Employees, HENRY THOMAS, Secretary, Paving Workers, DOXIE WILKERSON, Professor of Education, Howard University, CALVIN COUSINS, President, Laundry Workers, JAMES MURPHY, Columbia Lodge Number 85, Elks.

Special Agent [redacted] received from [redacted] b7c [redacted] mimeographed hand bills issued by the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress which were distributed to those present on March 20, 1942, at the meeting of the Citizens Committee to Free EARL BROWDER. These hand bills announced that the National Negro Congress would present Miss RUTH McKENNEY, author of the Broadway hit, "My Sister Eileen", at a victory party held at the Mu-Solit Club, 1327 R Street N. W., on Saturday, April 4, 1942, at 8:30 P.M.

It is also noted that in an article appearing April 4, 1942, in the Evening Star, Washington, D. C., that Miss RUTH McKENNEY, editor of the "New Masses", was to appear at a victory party sponsored by the National Negro Congress at the Mu-Solit Club.

In regard to Miss McKENNEY, at a meeting sponsored by the Communist Party at the National Press Club on January 16, 1942, reporting Agent heard Miss McKENNEY state that she was proud to say that she was a member of the Communist Party, and requested contributions from the audience for the work of the Communist Party.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D. C., will follow and report future activity of the National Negro Congress, Washington, D. C.

50 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 CSM/RH
ON 4/26/77

MET:EMD
100-3033

October 12, 1942
CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith the original and one copy of the report of [redacted] dated October 8, 1942, relative to the Service Flag ceremonies held under the auspices of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and the CITIZENS OF 119th STREET, Manhattan, New York, City, on Sunday, October 4, 1942. b7D

It will be noted that the speakers who are reported by [redacted] to be members of the Communist Party used this opportunity to urge the opening of a second front. The report also reflects that according to HOPE STEVENS, President of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, of New York City, the program of this organization at the present time is for a persistent struggle for Negro rights and the imperative need for the opening of a second front. [redacted] has been advised to follow and report further activities of this organization. b7D

Copies of the report are being retained in the New York City office for information purposes.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

ENC 2
c.c. 65-10519

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/[illegible] BY [illegible]

10/8/42

Sevice Flag ceremonies held under the Auppicees of the National Negro Congress and the Citizens of 119th Street, Sunday October 4th, 1942.

Representing the National Negro Congress :

Hope R. Stevens President
Naomi Kornacker Executive Secretary
Ethel Rainford Administrative Secretary
Theo Lewis Treasurer.

Representing 119th Street on "Flag Service Committee":

Mrs. Priscilla Bizzell
Mrs. Jennie Fraser
Mrs. M. Watkins
Mrs. Beatrice Cox
Mrs. Mary Wilkins
Mr. Phillips (H.)
Mrs. Grace White
Mrs. Massie Patterson
Mr. G.W. Brown
Mrs. Louise Singleton
Mrs. Bessie Lane
Mrs. Ida Smith
Mrs. E.A. Brown
Mrs. Sarak Whatey
Mrs. Lillian Thorne
Mr. R.C. Gibbs
Mr. David Black

Participating Orgaizations:

372 Infantry Band United States Army. (A.)
Colonel Charles Young Post American Legion (Charles Glover Commandant)
Womens' Auxiliary, American Legion (Mrs. Lottie Stewart President)
Ambulance Corp Civilian Defense
Harlem Labor Union
West Indian World ~~War~~ Veterans
Air Raid Wardens 24th and 28th Precincts
Womens' Volunteer Service
Uptown Fur Center
Negro Labor Victory Committee
Veterans of Abraham Lincoln Brigade
Harlem Co-ordinating Committee
Russian War Relief- Harlem Branch
Iternational Workers. Order branch # 4792 (Latin-American)
Ethiopian World Federation

ENCLOSURE

61-6728-23
F B I
3 OCT 17 1942

RECORDED & INDEXED

Speakers:

William T. Andrews Member New York State Assembly
Daniel Burrows " " " " "
Hulan Jack " " " " "
W.E. Lewin Executive Secretary of Ethiopian World Federation
Charles Collins Executive Secretary Negro Labor Victory Committee
Hope R. Stevens President National Negro Congress
Irving Schwartz Member Grand Lodge Idependent Order Of Odd Fellows
Rev. O.C. Maxwell Jr. Mt Olivet Baptist Church
Roger Straughn President Harlem Labor Union

COPIES DESTROYED
78 APR 24 1961

Samuel Patterson of 123 W. 129th Street was master of ceremonies.

[redacted]

The invocation was given by the RT.REV.Msgr.H. Wilkie Rector St. Mary's Church. He is also Army Chaplain. He also delivered a short patriotic address on the support of the boys on the other side and the need of putting everything we have in the win the war effort.

The audience was entertained by Mrs. Massie Patterson, and Sam Gary and Josh White from Cafe Society. They sang Freedom Road;Dorie Miller; National Negro Anthem.

Charles A. Glover conducted the dedication ceremonies with Msgr. H. Wilkie blessing the flag, which was later raised across 119th Street.

Assemblyman Daniel Burrows spoke breifly on the raising of the flag and that it was tied up with the opening of a "second Front" to aid Russia. He further stated that the opening of the military front should be left to those who are conducting the war. He stated that a "second front" should be opened in America against jim-crowis,discrimination and lynching and for the rights of the Negro people .

Lullow Werner paid tribute to Hope Stevens because he withdrew from the state senatorial race in the 19th senatorial District inorder to unite all Negroes in the District to oust the present incumbent who is white. He spoke of the discrimination at home and asserted that the "second Front" should be started here to win Negro rights.

Charles Collins spoke primarily on the "Second Front" and the imperative need of opeing it now contending that delay would mean the lost of millions of lives of Negro boys. He accused the leaders of the government of being"blunderer"and "stupid" for delaying the opening of a "second Front". He accused high persons in the government and the armed forces without specifically mentioning anyone,as being "appeasers" and "pro-fascists". He was particulary vitriolic is his denunciation of the heads of our Government and the United Nations for failure to declare war on Finland and urged the audience to demand that we declare war on Finland. He concluded with an attack on the Governments in Exile stating that the people would not permit Britain to reestablish Queen Wilhelmina and other royalty in power in Europe that the opening of a "second Front Now" would garantee a peoples victory.

William T. Andrews,Assemblyman, spoke of the high spirit of patriotism manifest in the occasion, took a shot at discrimination and pledged to do all within his power as a legislator to get justice for the Negro.

Rev. O.C.Maxwell stressed the need of unity behind our boys at the front as a necessary pre-requisite for victory.

Hope Stevens called for the election Judlor Terner to the State Senate and for the defeat of the present incumbent, outlined the program of the National Negro Congress which was a persistent struggle for Negro rights, and the imperative need of opening of a "second Front".

There were approximately 250 people in the parade .

[redacted]

670

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWIN D. DICKINSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

There is being furnished you herewith a summary memorandum relative to the National Negro Congress prepared March 15, 1942. This is being transmitted to you pursuant to your conversation with Mr. J. K. Mumford of this Bureau.

Although there is no pamphlet or periodical available at the Bureau containing a statement made by A. Phillip Randolph condemning Communist Party domination of the National Negro Congress, there are being attached photostatic copies of a section of the June, 1940, issue of The Communist. The Communist is the official monthly publication of the Communist Party.

You will note this section contains an article styled "The Third National Negro Congress" written by Theodore A. Bassett, [redacted] and presently a teacher in the New York City Workers School. Your attention is directed to page 548 to the section of this article entitled "The Defection of Randolph." This section criticizes Randolph for his anti-Communist speech at the Third National Negro Congress.

It will be noted on pages seven and eight of the accompanying memorandum the split between the Communist and non-Communist forces within the Third National Negro Congress is reflected. Statements made by Randolph concerning the Communist [illegible] are reflected therein.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Coffey
Hendon
Kramer
McGuire
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Coddy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

[redacted] (C) b1

[redacted] (C) b1

No further details concerning this Congress are available.

The certificate of incorporation of the National Negro Congress (No. 92570) filed in the District of Columbia reflects that the National Negro Congress was incorporated on April 30, 1934, and that the terms of the organization were perpetual. The business and the objects of the corporation were listed as follows:

1. To suppress the spread of the Doctrines of Communism among Negroes.

2. To investigate and present in proper form to the right and proper Governmental agencies, the economic, social and political needs of the Negroes, with a view to their enhancement.

3. To foster a movement having as its ultimate aid, a periodic meeting in convention of Negro representatives from all the States, elected by Negroes, so that the problems affecting the Negroes generally may be discussed and means of their solution determined upon.

4. To promote the welfare of all Negroes. (61-5723-170)

The National Negro Congress referred to above as being incorporated in Washington, D.C., had its origin in an organization known as the Joint Committee of National Recovery, which was made up of many affiliated organizations.

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NOTES DESTROYED 10 JUN 21 1951

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DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 4/26/85

No 4 stole sent 7/6/79 SP-1/15

A National Conference was held early in 1935 at Howard University, Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the Joint Committee on National Recovery. Out of this conference at Howard University, there arose plans for the organization of the National Negro Congress as it exists today. Shortly thereafter, the Joint Committee on National Recovery became inactive with the exception of John P. Davis. In October, 1935, this individual wrote an article published in pamphlet form, entitled, "Let's Build a National Negro Congress". This pamphlet was reportedly distributed throughout the Country and urged all sympathetic organizations to meet together and form sponsoring committees for the new National Negro Congress to be held in Chicago, Illinois, February 14, 1936. (61-6728-170)

In the latter part of 1935, a call was issued for a National Negro Congress to meet in Chicago, Illinois on February 14 to 16, 1936. This call was:

> "To all Negroes, native and foreign born. To all Negro organizations, churches, labor unions, farm and sharecroppers' organizations. To all fraternal, civic, professional and political groups. To all organizations and persons of whatever race, who are willing to fight for economic and social justice for Negroes."

[redacted] (c)

b1

[redacted] (c)

b1

The purpose of the Congress was not to usurp the work of existing organizations, but rather to seek to accomplish unity of action of existing organizations.

[redacted]

b1

[redacted]

The following are the points which the Congress planned to accomplish as outlined by John P. Davis in the call and pamphlet:

"1. The organization of the protest of Negro organizations against civic, social and economic injustices heaped on the Negro and a heightening of that protest.

"2. United front of Negro and white organizations around a basic minimum program of Negro rights.

"3. Molding on a nation-wide scale, as never before accomplished, public opinion, both Negro and white, against these injustices.

"4. A reaction as a result of the first three items listed above among federal, state and local governments which will result in the improvement of the conditions of Negro people in this country, and finally,

"5. A reaction as a result of the first three items listed above in the trade union field which will result in fairer treatment of Negro workers by trade unions.

These are some of the minimum demands of the program around which we can develop and build up a broad united front movement. Let us help build the National Negro Congress. It doesn't intend to destroy nor replace other Negro organizations. Every Party member, every Negro comrade, must now begin to throw every bit of energy he can into building local sponsoring committees in communities helping to raise funds."

Further show the interest of the Communist Party in the [illegible] Congress, the following is quoted from page [illegible] of "[illegible]", written by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party at the time. It was published by the International Publishers in 1938. "Significant progress has been made in building a United Front of struggle for Negroes' liberation. The National Negro Congress, which met in Chicago in February, 1936, and established a permanent organization, found the correct road--the Negro people have learned to expect and demand of the Communists, the greatest sensitivity of their problem."

(61-6728-170)

Aims and Purposes

The First Congress made the following seven demands:

1. The right of Negroes to jobs at decent living wages and for the right to join all trade unions. For the right to equal wages and equal labor conditions with other workers. For the organization of Negro workers with their fellow white workers into democratically controlled trade unions.

2. Relief and security for every needy Negro family; for genuine social and unemployment insurance without discrimination.

3. Aid to the Negro farm population, to ease the burden of debts and taxation; for the right of farmers, tenants and sharecroppers to organize and bargain collectively.

4. For a fight against lynching, mob violence and police brutality; for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law; for the right to vote, serve on juries and enjoy complete civil liberty.

5. The right of Negro youth to equal opportunity in education and in the economic life of the community.

6. For complete equality for Negro women; for their right, along with all women, to equal pay for equal work; for their right to suitable environment for themselves and

"their children - an environment which demands adequate housing, good schools and recreational facilities; for their right to organize as consumers.

7. To oppose war and fascism, the attempted subjugation of Negro people in Ethiopia, the oppression of colonial nations throughout the world, for the independence of Ethiopia."

Second National Negro Congress

The Second National Negro Congress was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 15, 16, and 17, 1937. The Congress represented more than 500,000 members organized in trade unions, churches, civic, political and fraternal groups.

This Congress was addressed by [illegible] prominent Communists or [illegible] Communists as:

James W. Ford
Clarence Cathaway
[illegible]
[illegible]
William L. Patterson

The following is a list of discussions entered into at this Congress in Philadelphia:

"1. The right of Negroes to jobs at decent wages and the right to join on an equal basis all trade unions; the right to equal wages and equal labor conditions with other workers; the organization of Negro workers with their fellow white workers into democratically controlled trade unions.

2. Relief and security for every needy Negro family; and genuine social and unemployment insurance without discrimination.

3. Aid to the Negro farm population, to ease the burden of debts and taxation; the right of farmers, tenants and sharecroppers

to organize and bargain collectively.

4. A fight against lynching, mob violence and police brutality; for the right to vote, serve on juries and enjoy complete civil liberty; and for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

5. The question of the Scottsboro Boys as a special demand, by bringing forward its full social and political significance.

6. The right of Negro youth to equal opportunity in education and in the economic life of the community.

7. For complete equality for Negro women; for their right, along with all women, to equal pay for equal work; for their right to a suitable environment for themselves and their children--an environment which demands adequate housing, good schools, and recreational facilities; for their right to organize as consumers.

8. The struggle for economic, political, social and cultural equality of the Negro people; the necessity of joining with all the progressive forces in the land to defeat in a common front the forces of fascism and war breeding."

The Daily Worker reporting the speech of James W. Ford, who it will be remembered has been the Communist Party Candidate for Vice-President of the United States, stated:

> "One of the most impressive ovations of the Convention was given to Ford, who was greeted with cheers and whistling as he arose to speak. This ovation soared to greater heights when he finished a masterful address with the stirring and historic words, 'John Brown's body marches on.'"

In reporting the speech of Clarence Hathaway at the Convention

National Negro Congress, the Daily Worker stated:

> "In the session on war and Fascism, Clarence Hathaway won the day with an unanswerable appeal for the policy of collective security against war and a caustic trimming of Norman Thomas, who echoed the Fascist argument that collective security means war."

Third National Negro Congress

The Third National Negro Congress was held in Washington, D. C. in the Labor Department Auditorium on April 26, 27 and 28, 1940. This Congress was attended by 1,264 delegates. It approved the following major resolutions:

1. To accept unanimously and enthusiastically the offer of John L. Lewis to establish a working agreement with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

2. To condemn this imperialist war and the policies of the Roosevelt Administration which lead toward war and to cooperate with the progressive and labor forces in working for peace.

3. To demand the immediate dissolution of the Dies Committee as a great threat to our fundamental rights.

4. To press for immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill.

A split occurred between the Communist and Non-Communist forces within the Third National Negro Congress. A. Philip Randolph, who had been its President up to that time, refused to be a candidate for the presidency. On May 5, 1940, he issued a statement that the Congress was

> "deliberately packed with Communists and C.I.O. members who were either Communists or sympathizers with Communists."

He added that most of the contributions to the Congress came from C.I.O. unions and said that John P. Davis of Washington, D. C., the Secretary of the Congress, had said during an Executive Committee meeting in New York,

> "that the Communist Party contributed $100 a month to the Congress."

Randolph declared that the Communist Party, instead

of trying to refute charges of the Dies Committee that it was a transmission belt for Communist propaganda,

> "has brilliantly succeeded in giving the charge every appearance of truth and validity."

In his stead Max Yergan was the unopposed nominee for President of the Congress. He is a lecturer at the City College of New York and Treasurer of the International Committee on African Affairs. During his speech to the Congress he defended the Soviet Union and attacked President Roosevelt's foreign policy. It is interesting to note that James W. Ford was elected to the Executive Committee at this Congress.

The principal address was made by John L. Lewis. John P. Davis, Secretary of the National Negro Congress, in outlining the peace program, followed the identical program of the Communist Party when he declared:

> "The position which our Congress should take on the question of war should be to oppose loans, credits, arms or any other aid direct or indirect to either side of the belligerents. We speak out firmly against aid to Nazi Germany but we speak out equal firmness against aid to imperialist Britain and imperialist France."

He said he believed that:

> "The American negro people will refuse to follow American imperialism in an attack upon the Soviet Union, will refuse to fall victim to anti-Soviet adventures, will refuse to join American or world imperialism in an attack against the Soviet people."

The officers elected at the Third National Negro Congress were:

Max Yergan	- President
John P. Davis	- Secretary
Hunter Johnson Assistant Director of the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee	)

Reverend Owen Whitfield Sharecropper Leader and Vice President of the United Cannery, Agricultural and Packing Workers	- Vice Presidents
Mrs. Fay Allen Member of Los Angeles Board of Education	
Reverend H. H. Higgins of Washington, D. C.	
Dr. Charles H. Lewis of Philadelphia, Pa.	
Dr. Robert X. Simons of Boston, Massachusetts	

Organization

The National Negro Congress is being organized under a regional, or district, and local council basis. A region or district is composed of several states, with a vice-president in charge. There are to be also state organizations. These are made up of city bodies or local councils within the state. The local council is the basic form of organization. The local sponsoring committees, which initiate the movement for the National Negro Congress, automatically become local councils. These councils are to be federated bodies of already existing organizations which affiliate to the council on the basis of a part or the whole of the program adopted at Chicago.

The National Headquarters is located at 917 Florida Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

As indicative of Communist activities in connection with the National Negro Congress, it was reported on December 23, 1940, in the Richmond News Leader, Richmond, Virginia, that a meeting of the Congress was held at the Sixth Mount Zion Church, 14 West Duval Street, Richmond, Virginia, and among the persons attending the meeting was one Donald Burke who was described as being an organizer for the Communist Party. It was further noted that Burke addressed this gathering, although the substance of his remarks was not reported.

The history of the Congress reflects that since its [illegible] has been under the leadership, for the most part, of two men; James W. Ford, Negro candidate of the Communist Party for Vice-President of the United States in 1932, 1936 and 1940, and John P. Davis, who although he has not been proven to be a member of the Communist Party has been definitely identified with that Party for the past five years.

Max Yergan, who became the President of the National Negro Congress, has been likewise identified with the Communist Party for the past five years. Scarcely an issue of the Daily Worker appears which fails to reflect the name and accomplishments of Yergan, who is a Negro.

An article appearing on page 546-547 of the periodical, "The Communist", June, 1940, attributes the following statement to John P. Davis, a leader of the Negro Congress:

> "I have visited the Soviet Union. I have talked with the Soviet people. I have witnessed their accomplishments and achievements. I know of their ideals and aspirations. I have witnessed the real and genuine rights of its freedom. I have witnessed their many nations and peoples, battling and work in unity, collaboration and peace. I know of their deep friendship and aid to all oppressed peoples and on the basis of that experience and knowledge, which is shared by thousands of people, I firmly believe that the American Negro people will refuse to fall victim to anti-Soviet ventures. Will refuse to join American or world Imperialists in any attack against the Soviet people....."

As further indicative of the cooperation and infiltration of the Communist Party in connection with the National Negro Congress, it was noted in an article appearing in the October 30, 1940 issue of the Daily Worker that:

> "In a panel section of the Convention devoted to a discussion of political parties, Mother Ella Reeve Bloor Embolt, Communist Candidate for Congress from Pennsylvania,

Second District, spoke, advancing her Party's Program to aid the economic status of both Negroes and whites and abolish the poll tax in the South."

Accomplishments

The principal work of the National Negro Congress, in addition to being a part of the United Front for the Communist Party, has been its campaign on behalf of the Scottsboro Boys, organizing Negro workers in the Congress for Industrial Organizations and its campaigns on behalf of Anti-Lynching and Anti-Jim Crow legislation.

Radical Activities and Connections

The following statements have been issued by James W. Ford concerning the interest of the Communist Party in the National Negro Congress:

"In all of these issues, the role of the National Negro Congress becomes of utmost importance for us. The Congress does not receive sufficient support from us. It is still weak organizationally. It needs to be built and it is up to the Communists to do their share in helping to build it."

"The Communists were never doubtful about the significance or the outcome of the National Negro Congress. We were not deterred by the charges of 'Communist domination.' We were guided by what we knew of the desire of the Negro masses for united action."

"The Communists have played a big part in this development as well as in the struggle for unity of the Negro people and the white masses. Our Party as a whole has helped to organize the Negro people and has gained wide support for their struggles. There has been a better understanding on the part of Negro Communists of how to work among the Negro masses, bringing to them Communist methods of struggle, and creating faith among

them in the ability of the Communist Party to break down the barriers of prejudice....."

"Today the tactic of the united front is bringing together large masses of Negroes....."

"The National Negro Congress (First Congress) recorded progress made by Communists and many delegates who supported our program, in the increasing work we are carrying on in the various organizations of the Negro people. Our modest successes are, however, just beginnings. We must now undertake to profit from our experiences, mistakes, shortcomings and successes, by showing what changes are necessary in our methods of work to build the National Negro Congress."

"It is necessary for the Party membership, particularly the Negro members, to see the need and possibility of strengthening our influence in the existing Negro organizations, by joining them where possible and becoming useful members. We can today unite the Negro people on the basis of their day-to-day needs, and for the preservation of democratic rights in such a way that the greatest number of people will be brought together in common struggle."

"We do not contrapose immediate issues to the revolutionary objectives; we are concerned daily, hourly, with the miserable life of the whole of the Negro people, as a part of the larger struggle for socialism."

"As a duly elected member of the Executive Committee (of the National Negro Congress) at the present Congress at Philadelphia, in the name of the Communist Party, I pledge one thousand Negro Communists to become members of the National Negro Congress during its drive. Our Communists must become the most active and enthusiastic workers in the National Negro Congress. We must see that the best of these comrades are utilized for work in the National Negro Congress."

"We Communists must organize all our forces to render great assistance to the National Negro Congress in carrying out its program. If we

develop systematic work we shall be able to fulfill very soon the task of developing a broad People's Front among the Negro people in the United States against fascism and war and for the liberation of the Negro people."

"Great united front organizations such as the National Negro Congress.....will be an important sector of the Democratic Front."

James W. Ford has characterized the National Negro Congress as:

"A broadening of the People's Front in America. The Congress is built upon the organizational idea of a federation of Negro organizations which, in effect, is the Negro People's Front."

[redacted] one of the leaders of the National Negro Congress, has in the past been a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and an Upper Harlem Section Organizer of the Communist Party.

Edward Strong, an executive of the National Negro Congress, has been reported to be a high functionary in the Young Communist League.

The National Negro Congress is affiliated with the American Council on Soviet Relations. This latter group is regarded as the

"most intellectual Red setup in America."

The National Negro Congress was one of the organizations sponsoring the American Peace Mobilization at Turner's Arena in Washington, D. C., on September 15, 1940. John P. Davis, Chairman of the National Negro Congress, was chairman of the meeting in Washington, D. C., and introduced such well-known radicals as

Vito Marcantonio
Fred Keller, former member
of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
in Spain.

Dr. Max Yergan, now President of the National Negro Congress, has identified himself with the Communist Party

for at least the last five years. An examination of the [illegible] the Daily Worker would indicate that it constitutes itself as being his advance press agent. There appeared in the Daily Worker for July 26, 1938, a statement to the following effect:

> "Mr. Max Yergan is not only an expert on African affairs but is also close to the throbbing pulse of the American Negro. As Executive Vice President of the National Negro Congress he participates in the shaping of policies that affect the lives of millions of Negroes."

William Z. Foster, writing in "The Communist" for November, 1936, under an article styled "The Crisis in the Socialist Party," declared, in part:

> "The Party's role was also one of significant importance in the organization of the great united front National Negro Congress in Chicago, February, 1936, of 1,817 delegates representing 1,500,000 members organized in trade unions, churches, youth groups and so forth. In all these united front movements the Communist Party is an official participant."

The Communist Party of California issued the following statement concerning Communist work in the National Negro Congress:

> "The Communist Party has given full support to the program of the National Negro Congress, both nationally and in California. Communist Party members in California worked very actively for the achievement of this United Negro People's Front."

A. Philip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, resigned in April, 1940 as President of the National Negro Congress on the grounds that it is controlled by Communists. Speaking before the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Harlem, New York, on September 17, 1940, Randolph declared:

> ".....we reject the Communist program as a solution of the problem of the Negro because it is the negation of democracy.

We condemn all Communist-front and transmission belt organizations as a peril to the constructive and sound program of the Negro people since they seek only to serve the cause of the Communist Party, which is only concerned about the success to the foreign policy of Soviet Russia."

The Communist Party has long followed the practice of inciting racial prejudice. It has been pointed out to the Negroes that they are being discriminated against and their only hope for equality lies in the success of the Communist Party.

[redacted]

b7D

The above information was furnished by [redacted] and has not been verified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A newspaper clipping from the Daily Worker for April 26, 1941, substantiates this information and reflects that the combined forces of the National Negro Congress and the Maryland Youth Congress would carry on a drive to win jobs for 7,000 Negro workers in the "Jim-Crow" Plant of the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company and the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Investigation in various parts of the United States has indicated that Communist Organizers have been active in organizing the National Negro Congress in many sections.

[redacted] on b7D

May 1, 1940, at a May Day Meeting of the Columbus Section of the Communist Party, one Steve Crattan, Columbus, Ohio Party Secretary, presided at a meeting which was attended by over one hundred members of the Communist Party. At this meeting there were two delegates of the National Negro Congress. [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7C

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

Prior to the repudiation of the Non-aggression Pact between Germany and Russia, Doctor Max Yergan, President of the National Negro Congress, issued the following statement on May 24, 1941, in connection with the organization campaign to secure employment of Negroes in various National Defense Industries, ".....it would be a mistake and it would do serious harm to the Negro People, if they demand jobs in exchange for support of war-making plans and of war itself, so this war holds no good for the Negro but will usher in destruction of his Democratic Right and further denial of the meager Civil Liberty he enjoys already.

"The Negro people must insist on jobs while at the same time opposing this imperialistic War and our independent interests. It is a War which cannot possibly serve to save Democracy or to liberate the people, for it is an instrument of oppression of the people the world over." (Daily Worker dated May 24, 1941, p.5).

On July 4, 1941, subsequent to the German invasion of Russia, the National Negro Congress issued a significant policy statement calling on the Negro people, "to give their fullest support to the cause of a genuine struggle against Hitlerism both at home and abroad.... this is the only way to secure manhood rights for the Negro people and to truly defend American Democracy." The statement continues:

[illegible] possibility of successful conquest by the forces of [illegible] the vast territory and resources of the Soviet Union is a cause for alarm to all American people, but especially the Negro people for whom the world domination of Hitlerism would mean disaster for all their hopes for Democratic Rights".

The statement concluded: "The pledge of our Government for full aid to the Soviet Union in the brave fight against Hitlerism, will find welcome response from the Negro people."

"This is true not only because of the grave military disadvantage to which our country would be put by the defeat of the Soviet Union, but, equally because of the genuine admiration which the Negro people have for the land where race discrimination has been abolished."

".....It is now the clear task of every section of the Negro people to give their fullest support to the cause of a genuinely Democratic struggle against Hitlerism, both at home and abroad. This is the only way to secure Manhood Rights for the Negro people and to truly defend American democracy." (Daily Worker, July 5, 1941; page 5.)

More currently, the National Negro Congress has been carrying on a campaign against the policy of the Army and Navy in refusing to accept donations of Negro blood, for "blood banks", which are stored to provide transfusions for men in battle. The Congress has alleged that this attitude of the Army and Navy is another demonstration of its Jim Crow practices. In addition, there has been a demand on the part of the National Negro Congress, as well as related groups, for Negro Employment in National Defense Industry. Charges have been made, also, that there has been discrimination against the Negro race in employment in these industries. It has been additionally reported with respect to this program that the Communist Party, and the Communist Front organizations, the International Workers' Order participate in it. It is stated that this way Communist Doctrines may be presented to the Negro race.

The following excerpt is taken from a pamphlet advertising a meeting of a unit of the National Negro Congress held March 2, 1942, at the New York Public Library, 9 West 124th St., New York City. "America has been at war for nearly three months! Sufficient time has elapsed and sufficient events have occurred for us again to "take stock".....examine the situation.....and see where the Negro people stand in relation to the war....."

[redacted]

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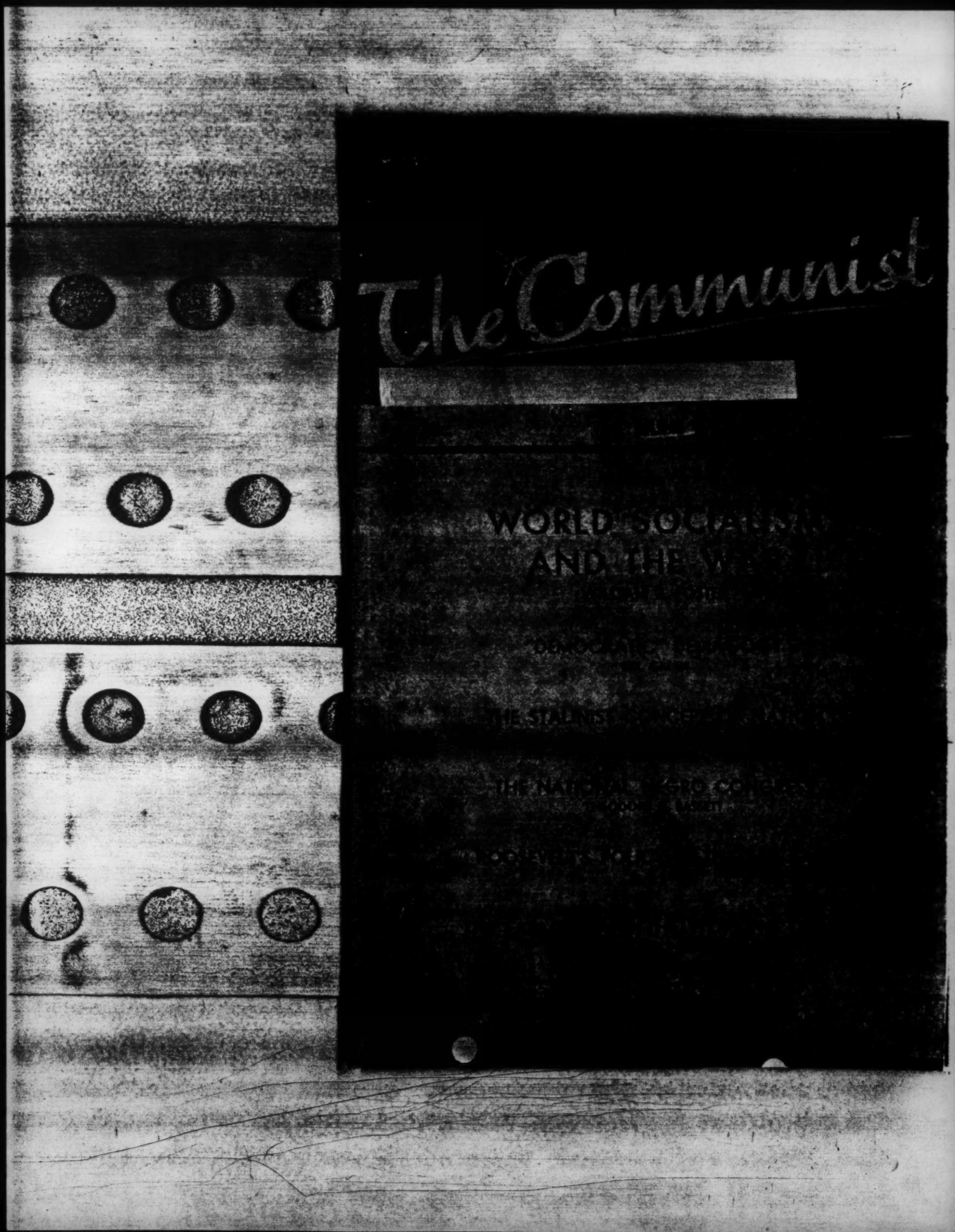
The Communist
WORLD SOCIALIS
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THE STALINIST
THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRES

THE COMMUNIST

A MAGAZINE OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE
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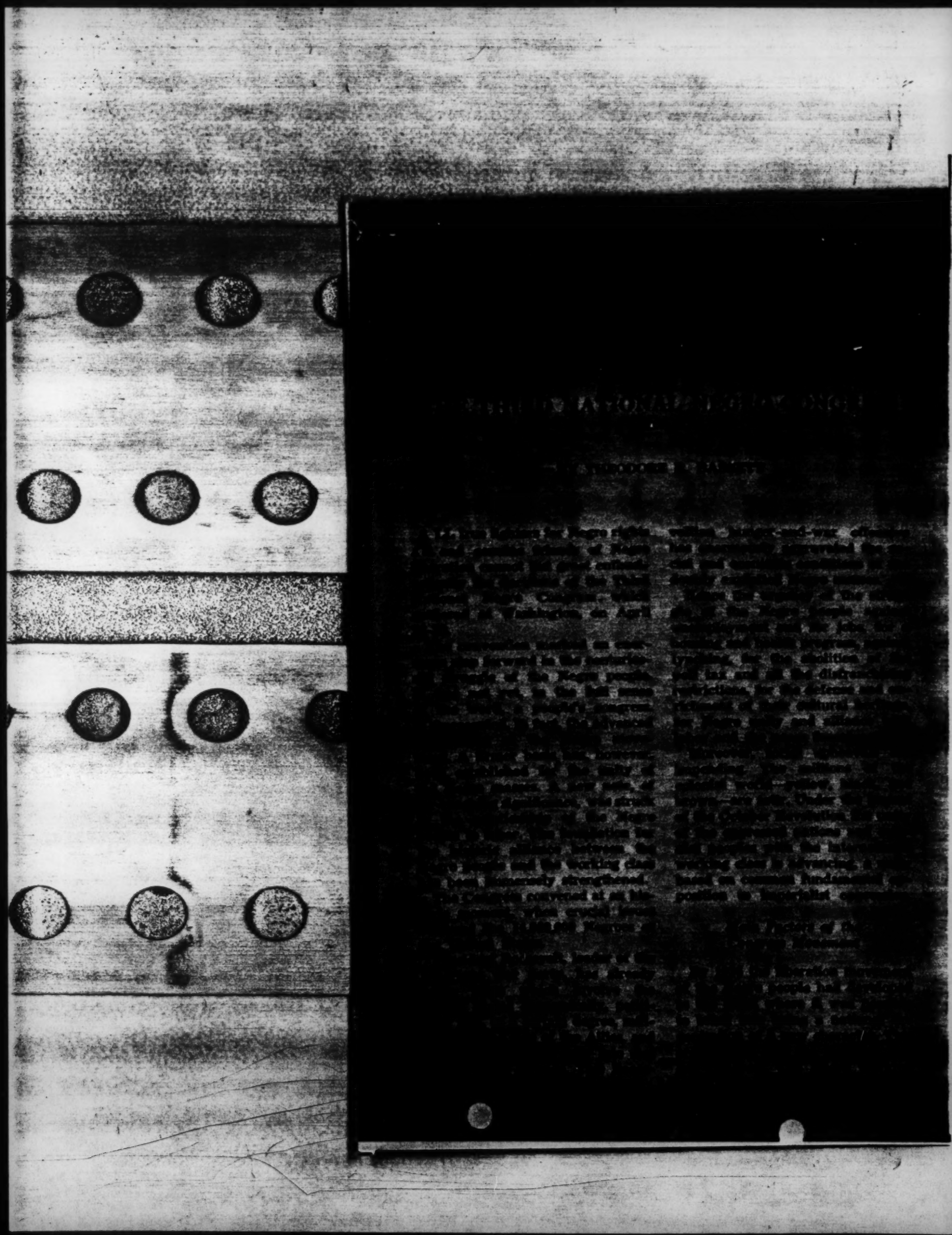

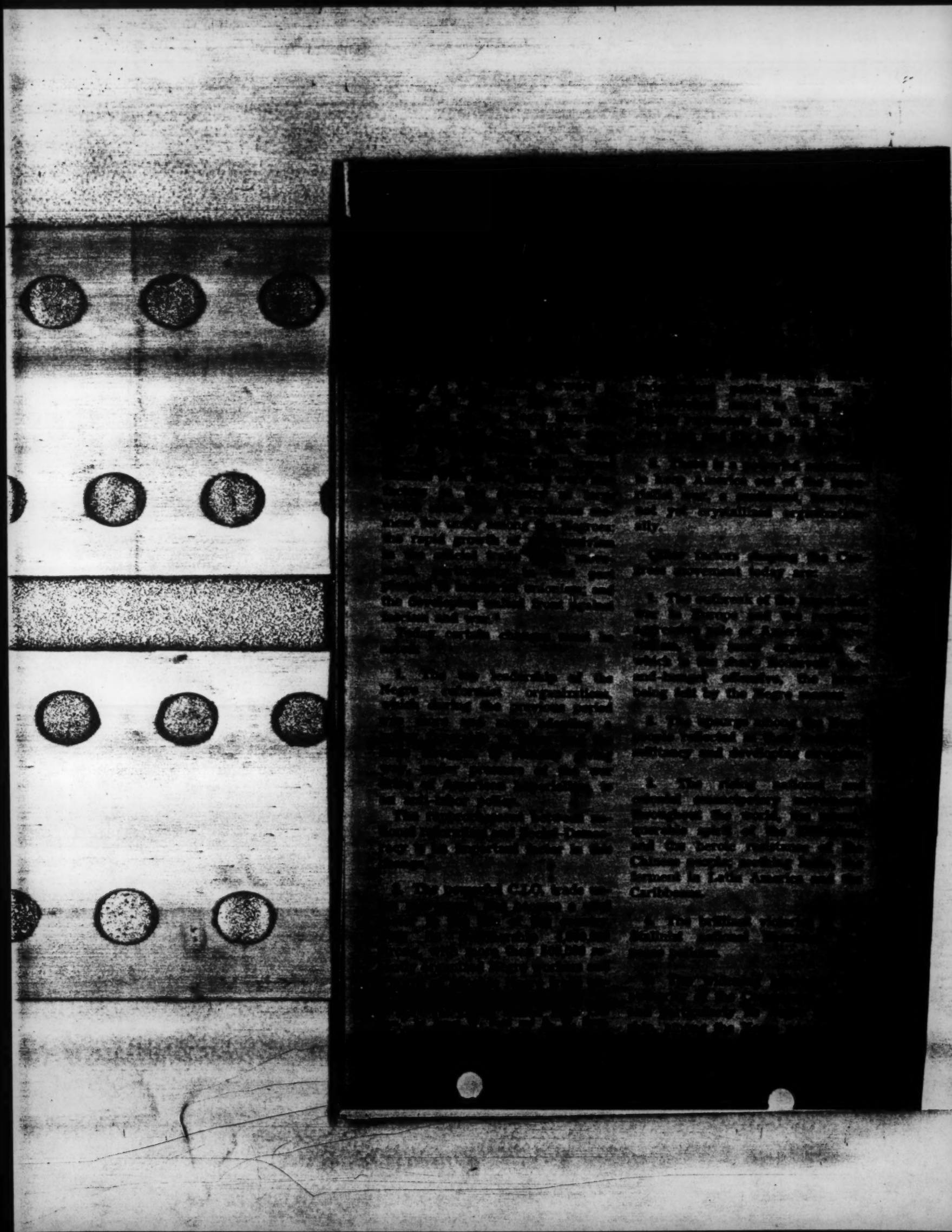

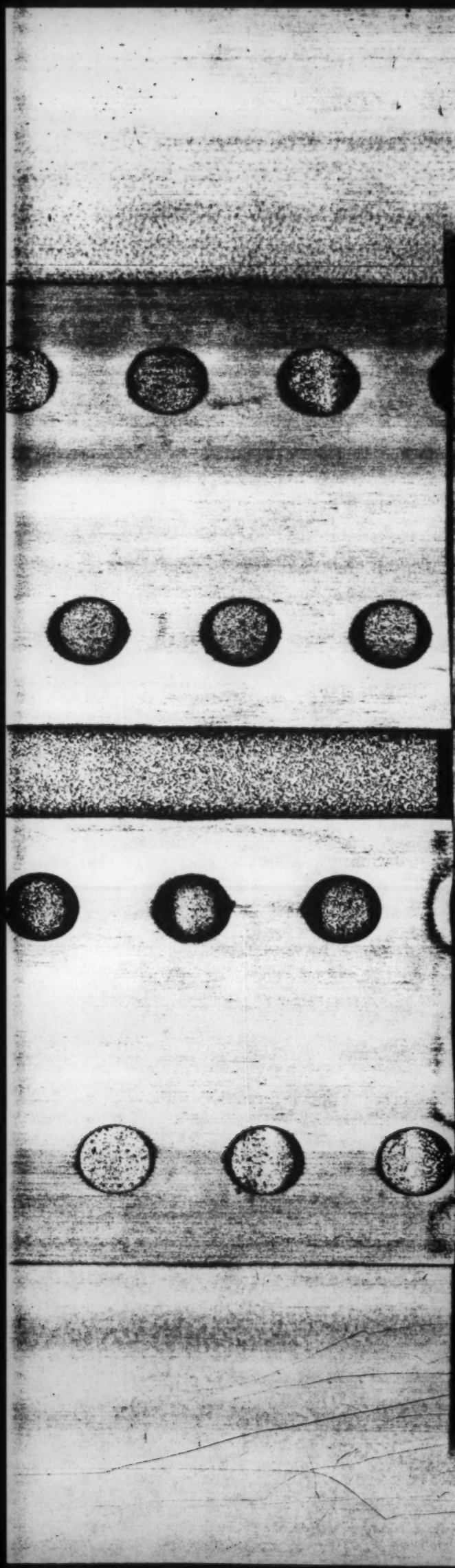

Comparative Representation of the Congress Conventions

The Congress was representative of all the vital phases of Negro life. Delegates from twenty-eight states, fourteen Northern and fourteen Southern in addition to the District of Columbia, numbering 1,264* and representing thirteen types of organizations, assembled at the Third Congress. From two to three thousand persons attended each of the three general sessions. The composition of the delegates by organizations was: trade unions, 459; youth societies, 196; educational bodies, 77; church and religious groups, 71; fraternal organizations, 61; political parties and groups, 41; professional groups, 38; women's organizations, 33; unemployment organizations, 30; farm organizations, 24; business groups, eight; miscellaneous, 64.

Of the 1,264 delegates, [illegible] were Negro and 270 white;** 949 delegates were from the North and 315 from the Southern and border states. The largest state delegations were: New York, 571; Pennsylvania, 133; Illinois, 69; Connecticut, 48; and Massachusetts, 42. The District of Columbia sent 173. California was represented by three delegates. The Third Congress registered an increase of 115 delegates over the second held in 1938, and 447 over the first held in 1936.

The greatest growth in the relative number of delegates from different types of organizations is expressed in the steady increase of the delegations from trade unions and the sharp rise of farm delegates. The first Congress registered 83 trade union delegates; the second, 219; and the third, 459.

The first Congress had two farm delegates, the second one; while the third had 24.

Around 40 per cent of the Negro population lives on farms. Hence the significance of the sharp increase in farm delegates. That increase symbolizes the growing alliance between the Negro industrial workers and agricultural toilers.

Among the youth delegates were present representatives of the Southern Youth Negro Congress which had convened in New Orleans a week earlier.

The numerical proportion of Southern delegates, adult and youth, must be viewed in the light of concentrated work in that region for support of the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

A glance at the table below will give the comparative figures of the representation of the other types of organizations at the three conventions of the Congress.

Delegates From Other Organizations From First to Third Congress

Organization	First	Second	Third
Civic and Community	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fraternal	71	[illegible]	[illegible]
Political	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Educational	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Church	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Women	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Professional	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

THE THIRD NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Labor and the Negro People

Transcending the mere quantitative aspects of the increase in the trade union delegation is its social and political import. Its effect is twofold. On the one hand, the organic tie between the Negro movement and the working class has been strengthened, and on the other, the base for the Negro liberation movement has become more securely rooted. The Negro working class constitutes an indivisible part of the American working class. It is the natural bridge between the oppressed Negro nation and labor and other progressive social forces, the overwhelming majority of the dominant white nation. The Negro working class is the only consistently revolutionary class among the Negro people. The Negro working class alone is qualified by its socio-economic position to lead the Negro people through struggle to the exercise of the right of national self-determination.

This shift of forces on class lines in the inner life of the Congress movement is of paramount importance, no less to the peace, labor and socialist movement than to the Negro movement itself.

The invitation to the Congress to affiliate with Labor's Non-Partisan League extended by [illegible] President [illegible] acceptance by [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] you represent to join [illegible] cause with labor that we may [illegible] act as American citizens together [illegible] those political means and [illegible] ments by which the common [illegible] fare may be promoted.

"In this mean [illegible] I extended an invitation to the American Youth Congress and [illegible] millions of young people affiliated with it to make common cause with Labor's Non-Partisan League for the promotion of a just and sensible program for public welfare. To the National Negro Congress and to your affiliates I would extend that same invitation to affiliate [illegible] or to reach a working agreement with Labor's Non-Partisan League that our common purposes [illegible] better be attained."

In his reply to Lewis the following day, John P. Davis, voicing a sentiment which received almost unanimous approval, declared:

"The Negro people are [illegible] [illegible] the invitation [illegible] Lewis to [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] labor and to go forward [illegible] for victory can now be [illegible] no doubt that the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] vitation of [illegible] a working [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] period, long since [illegible] counter-revolutionary and now decrepit, is striving with might and main to drag the people into the abyss of imperialist war. The working class, imperishable ally of the Negro people, then just beginning its great advance, but is now growing to full maturity.

The Constitution

A constitution was adopted defining the aims and objects of the Congress. On the structure and aims of the Congress the Constitution states:

"The Congress is a federated organization which seeks to unite the Negro people and all friends of Negro freedom for complete social [illegible] and full citizenship for the Negro Americans. The Congress does not duplicate any organization. It is a federated body not only [illegible] organizational structure but [illegible] philosophy and [illegible]

[illegible]

"2. To secure the right of the Negro people to be free from Jim-Crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching and mob violence, and to work for the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation.

"3. To secure employment for the Negro people free from all manner of job discrimination by governmental agencies and private industry.

"4. To promote the cause of trade unionism among Negroes and to work for the organization of Negro workers into trade unions on a basis of full equality with all other trade union members.

"5. To work for effective and adequate local, state and national programs for meeting the educational, health and housing needs of the people without discrimination with respect to geographical areas and to provide for security against old age, unemployment and want.

"6. To foster the cultural development and expression of the Negro people, to spread the truth regarding their traditions and contributions to American democracy, and to combat all falsifications and distortions of their historic role in American life.

"7. To promote the cause of [illegible] of Africa, [illegible] China, India, and [illegible] America, whose [illegible]

Report of the National Secretary

The [illegible] National Secretary, John P. Davis, in his report to the Congress, declared with reference to the vital questions of civil liberties and war:

"What do the Negro people want? Not war—but peace; not guns, but jobs; not death, but life; not reaction, but democratic rights. That is why there is an increasing ground swell in the ranks of labor saying, 'The Yanks Are Not Coming.' That is why the youth of our nation are declaring: there is no future in Flanders Field. That is why the Negro people are saying: we shall not die in the war of American imperialism. We have a war of our own—against [illegible] lynching, against [illegible], against the Dies Committee, for the right to vote and the right to work. The enemy of American democracy is at home. Let us fight that enemy here. . . .

"The Negro people [illegible] the Soviet [illegible]

[illegible] witnessed their many nations and peoples busy and working in amity, collaboration and peace. I know of their deep friendship and aid to all oppressed peoples. And on the basis of that experience and knowledge, which is shared by thousands of people, I firmly believe that the American Negro people will refuse to fall victim to anti-Soviet adventures, will refuse to join American or world imperialism in any attack against the Soviet people. . . .

"Just as the Ku Klux Klan tars and feathers its victims, so the Dies Committee smears labor organizations, youth organizations, Negro organizations and other progressive organizations fighting for the welfare and democratic rights of the American people.

[illegible] Dies [illegible]

"Let us stand for progress, [illegible]

The Congress resolved to work with Labor's Non-Partisan League and demanded the immediate dissolution of the Dies Committee. The other resolutions dealt with the various issues facing the Negro people, the question of economic and social security, citizenship rights and cultural freedom. There were resolutions calling for the immediate release of the five remaining Scottsboro boys; condemning the Ku Klux Klan terror and the failure of the F.B.I. to investigate K.K.K. terrorism; calling for the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill and the Geyer Poll Tax Bill; and demanding the abolition of peonage.

The resolutions brought before the general session were passed almost unanimously. The miserable little groups of Trotskyite-Lovestoneite-Thomasite disrupters were so isolated that they dared not raise their voices.

The Defection of Randolph

The speech of A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Congress, which followed that of John L. Lewis, bristled with the most vicious and provocative anti-working class, anti-Communist, anti-Soviet slanders.

The enthusiastic Congress tensely awaited the message of Randolph. But, his speech filled the audience with [illegible], consternation and disgust. His words were not the words of Negro labor, of the Negro people. They were the words of the frightened Negro petty bourgeoisie, chattering with fear, pleading for mercy before the white master. They were the words of treacherous Social-Democracy. Of the progressive Randolph of 1936 only a hollow mocking remains.

The Randolph of 1940 rejects the Randolph of 1936. While the Congress and its program remain, Randolph has changed. He counsels the Negro to reject the outstretched hand of labor. He bleats about the desirability of Negroes joining "hands in helping to build a national farmer-labor political party," but he rejects the practical offer of Lewis for independent political action which he belatedly discovers, after five years, to be destructive of the "mass character of the Congress." Randolph now merely swells the chorus of Roosevelttian and Wall Street warmongers. He slanders and incites war against the Soviet Union.

He is running Dies a close race in his slander of the Communist Party and the U.S.S.R. He rejects a united Negro movement. He calls upon the Negro people to be "loyal" to their imperialist oppressors.

Such scraping before the white ruling class and their spokesmen can only breed contempt and bring the heels of the Southern bourbons and their Northern brothers down more heavily upon the neck of the Negro people.

Randolph's desertion of the Negro people is typical of warmongering Social-Democracy. He also sounds a petty-bourgeois nationalist note, exclaiming: "The Negro must save himself, he must depend on his own right arm!" This is indicative of the increasing coalescence of Social-Democracy with national reformism.

THE THIRD NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Red-Baiting Rejected

An outstanding contribution at the Congress was the speech of James W. Ford, who had just returned from a six-month stay in Mexico. He made an exposure of a shocking plot on the part of Martin Dies against the Mexican government and people. He brought greetings of solidarity from the Mexican people and the great inter-American Indian Congress. He was received with enthusiastic applause. Red-baiting was decisively rejected by the delegates.

John P. Davis and other Congress leaders, who not only refused to be stampeded but on the contrary took the offensive against manifestation of red-baiting, Roosevelt warmongering, and anti-Soviet incitations, thereby rendered valuable service to the Negro people.

At the final session, Randolph, faced by the overwhelming sentiment of the Congress against his position on the most vital issues confronting the Negro people today, tendered his resignation as President.

Dr. Max Yergan, Director of the International Committee on African Affairs and heretofore Vice-president of the Congress, was unanimously elected President.

The outlook for the Congress with Dr. Yergan at the helm is indeed bright. He is a man of sterling qualities, unselfish and indefatigable. He is staunch in his championship of Negro rights and unbounded in his devotion to human freedom.

The Negro People and Civil Rights of Communists

It is an indisputable fact, corroborated by our present experiences, that attacks on the Communists give rise to sharper repression against the Negro masses.

The white-robed Ku Kluxers are reviving their floggings, tortures, and murders, and are resorting to all sorts of repressions against the Negro masses who are beginning to assert their citizenship rights. These anti-Negro, anti-democratic terrorist gangs breed like weeds in the dank soil of intolerance created by the wanton disregard of the Bill of Rights as evidenced in the recent trials and other pro-war measures aimed at the suppression of the civil rights of the Communists. All these events are connected with the struggle for Negro liberation. Roosevelt and Wall Street want a war from which the Negroes have nothing to gain. The Communists are the most staunch fighters for peace. The struggle for the civil rights of the Communists is an organic part of the fight of the Negro masses and all toilers for civil liberties and peace.

The Negro Masses and the Soviet Peace Policy

Anglo-French imperialism with the support of the American bourgeoisie is striving to convert the present imperialist war into a war against the U.S.S.R.; a war against the liberation movements of all peoples. Imperialist war means indescribable misery, intensified exploitation, increased mob terror and death both to the Negro people [illegible]

[illegible] THIRD NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

[illegible] of the [illegible] under the [illegible] of British and [illegible] imperialism. The world imperialist war of 1914-18 is a living demonstration of this irrefutable fact.

The campaign of slander spread among the Negro masses against the U.S.S.R. is for the specific purpose of dragging the Negro people into a war against 180,000,000 people who have flung their capitalist masters into the discard of history.

But the Negro people, who knew slavery, who now know brutal national oppression, who gave the world Gabriel, Vesey, Turner, Douglass, Tubman, L'Ouverture, will know how to resist such a war. The U.S.S.R. is organically connected with, is at the center of, all peace forces. It pursues a consistent policy of peace, of thwarting the spread of imperialist war, of limiting and restricting its scope, of hastening its end. This policy is in [illegible] accord with the fundamental interests of the Negro people.

No Negro leader can lead his people along the right path unless he takes into account in his practical day-to-day activity these incontrovertible facts.

It is beyond dispute that a few billionaires exploit ruthlessly the overwhelming majority of the peoples both in the home countries and in the colonies and semi-colonial regions, that the British and French imperialists exploit more than half a billion colonial slaves, a substantial portion of whom are Negroes. The British Empire constitutes a [illegible] pillar of the world imperialist [illegible] of which [illegible] the chief [illegible] constitutes an [illegible] part. The victorious October Revolution delivered an irrevocable blow to imperialism in a world system. The freeing of the Western Ukrainians and Byelo-Russians by the U.S.S.R. from their bondage to landlord-capitalist Poland further crippled the world imperialist setup. The stronger the U.S.S.R., the weaker the grip of the imperialist oppressors on the Negro peoples.

Furthermore, the experiences of the U.S.S.R. show beyond dispute that the victorious working class, pursuing the Leninist-Stalinist policy of national liberation of the formerly oppressed nationalities of tsarist Russia, has solved every problem, in the main, which the Negro people face in the United States today.

The fear that the Negro people may learn from the rich experience of the formerly oppressed nationalities of the tsarist empire how better to fight for their liberation haunts the white imperialist oppressors and their bourgeois and petty-bourgeois apologists.

No Negro leader can lead his people along the right path unless he takes into account in his practical day-to-day activity the danger of falling prey to, of abetting, the attacks of the imperialists and their agents against labor, against the Communists, against the Soviet Union.

Unquestionably, the National Negro Congress only acted in accord with the fundamental interests of the Negro people in adopting the resolutions on imperialist war

and on the dissolution of the Dies Committee.

Forces of Disunity

Conspicuous by their absence at the Third National Negro Congress were the top leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League. A number of outstanding ministers boycotted the Congress.

Thus, Dr. Powell and Dr. Savory, of the *Amsterdam News*, organized a counter-movement to the Congress in a so-called "Congress" of clubs. It was their first manifestation of interest in the Congress movement. They are serving as the little errand boys of Roosevelt. No wonder they jump to the defense of Randolph of 1940 in their editorial of May 11.

All varieties of Social-Democracy, the New Leader crowd, the Thomasites, as well as the Lovestoneite-Trotskyite camp, carry on a persistent campaign against the unity of the Negro people.

The most vicious slanders were spread about the work of the Communist Party among the Negroes, instanced by the canard about the "demotion" of Comrade Ford and his "exile" to Mexico. Their slanderous rumors were timed as an attack upon the man who rendered splendid aid to the Communist Party of Mexico in exposing [illegible] cleaning [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

papers. They insinuated themselves into the first session of the Congress through the speech of A. Phillip Randolph. The slanders were designed to create confusion among the progressives, to separate the Communists from the masses and thereby to weaken the mass movement.

Moreover, such calumny served to hinder the rallying of trade unionists to the support of the Congress. Only through relentless struggle against Social-Democratism can the Negro people's anti-imperialist, anti-war front be forged. The Communists must in the most concrete fashion arouse the Negro masses to the danger of Social-Democratism in all its manifestations.

Shortcomings of the Congress

Due to the disproportionate emphasis upon the international [illegible] A. Phillip Randolph, the [illegible] concrete connections between [illegible] war-and-hunger policy of Roosevelt and the aggravated [illegible] Negro masses were not [illegible] forward with sufficient [illegible] Notwithstanding this, these [illegible] gates who represented the [illegible] vanguard of the Negro masses [illegible] pressed deep resentment and [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] is therefore a foremost concern of the Negro movement.

There was insufficient attendance and participation of community organizations in the panels, a factor which bespeaks weak connection between Negro labor and the Negro community. Negro labor must assert itself boldly in the Negro community. The tie between Negro labor and the Negro community must be strengthened. Considering its importance as a powerful weapon in rallying the masses, culture should have been given a central place on the program. Church participation failed to reflect the important role it plays in Negro life. Participation of both general business and consumer cooperatives was extremely weak. There was a pronounced ultra-Leftist attitude toward business. These deficiencies in the work among business, church, and cultural groups must be overcome [illegible] the Congress to expand in influence and power. Labor, as the leader of the people, is concerned in the broadest sense in rallying all strata of the Negro masses in the struggle.

The problems of Negro education as well as Negro achievements [illegible] special attention today. The problem of the Negro domestic [illegible] is one which must receive [illegible] attention. Attention to [illegible] particularly by the [illegible] state and regional organiza[illegible] the Congress will help [illegible] shortcomings.

[illegible] the Rio Grande, in Latin [illegible] Caribbeans, re[illegible] there. Contact with them must be established, maintained and strengthened. This, as well as the kindred question of foreign-born Negroes in the United States, received scant attention.

Tasks Ahead

The National Negro Congress, in serving as the unifying force of the Negro people and their organizations around an anti-imperialist, anti-war program of struggle jointly with the working class as a whole and all peace forces, is fulfilling a foremost need of the Negro liberation movement, of the struggle of the American masses for civil rights, peace, and socialism. Hence, Communists must give serious attention to assisting the Negro masses to build the Congress movement. Of especial importance is the building, maintenance and consolidation of the local councils. The role of labor as the axis around which alone the councils can be stabilized cannot be overemphasized today. Hence, Communists in trade unions have a task no less important than neighborhood Party organizations.

The program of the National Negro Congress is not Communist, but the Communists support the Congress wholeheartedly. The Communist program extends beyond that of the Congress; it includes the right of self-determination for the Black Belt. It is because the Communists know how to connect the day-to-day issues facing the Negro people with the basic principle of the right to self-determina[illegible]

RHW:FMC 3 October 28, 1942

SIGNED AND MAILED
OCT 28 1942
DIVISION OF RECORDS

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As of assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in furtherance of its official duties, I would appreciate your making available the information filed with your Department by the National Negro Congress, 290 Lenox Avenue, New York City, in compliance with your Department's regulation of March 5, 1942. It is recalled that this regulation required the filing of a return by nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Francis Biddle

Attorney General.

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. E. A. Tamm
. Clegg
. Glavin
. Ladd
. Nichols
. Rosen
. Tracy
. Carson
. Coffey
. Hendon
. Kramer
McGuire
Quinn Tamm
Nease
s Gandy

32 NOV 3 1942

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DATE 9/26/79 BY SP-1 GSK/RH

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boser
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Berdon
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
File

MET:DH

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ON 4/26/79

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Declassification
DATE 7/6/79 SP-1 CSK

November 4, 1942
CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
AGAINST LYNCHING

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith the original and one copy of the report of [redacted] dated October 30, 1942 relative to the National Emergency Committee Against Lynching, which is reported to have held its first meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt on October 18, 1942.

According to [redacted] the National Emergency Conference Against Lynching was held under the auspices of the National Negro Congress and VITO MARCANTONIO, President of the International Labor Defense and United States Congressman. The meeting was called in protest against the three lynchings that occurred in Mississippi. However, it was decided at this Conference to form the National Emergency Committee Against Lynching, in which persons from all parts of the country will be asked to participate.

[redacted] sets out the program presently to be followed by this committee and the names of the officers as well as the present members of the Committee.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-6728-256

It should also be noted that the National Emergency Committee Against Lynching is calling a huge mass meeting jointly with the National Negro Congress and the Salem Church Lyceum, to be held Sunday, October 24, 1942 at 4:00 PM at the Salem Church, 129th Street and Seventh Avenue. [redacted] follow closely any other activities of this organization.

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b7C

[redacted]

Since there is no evidence that there was ever a local chapter of the National Negro Congress in St. Louis, Missouri, no further investigation is being conducted in this Division.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

October 20th, 1942

National Emergency Conference Against Lynching.
Held Sunday October 18th 1942 [illegible] P.M.
Hotel Roosevelt
Auspices; National Negro Congress and Congressman Vito Marcantonio President of the International Labor Defense.

The meeting was called in protest against the three lynchings that occurred in Mississippi recently. The Conference decided to form the National Emergency Committee against Lynching. Because of the calling of the conference on such short notice it was agreed that persons from all parts of the country will be asked to participate.

The group decided that two delegations should be organized, representative of all sections of the country and divers groups, one delegation to visit Governor Johnson of Mississippi and President Roosevelt. The delegation visiting President Roosevelt to demand that a state of national emergency exists in relation to lynching and that speak out against lynching and prosecute lynchers as traitors to America. The Communist contend that lynching creates national disunity and there for anyone who participates in anything that creates disunity sabotages the war effort and for that reason should be treated the same as a saboteur. On this assumption they proceed to demand that the Federal Bureau of Investigation be used to track down all persons taking part in a lynching. Marcantonio read a wirexx from Governor Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi pledging support and cooperation. A nationwide movement has been launched. Organizations and individuals are asked to send letters and wires to President Roosevelt and the Governor of Mississippi. The Conference passed unanimously the proposed wire that was later sent to President Roosevelt.

The following officers were elected:
Vito Marcantonio President
Ferdinand Smith Secretary
Dr. [illegible] Treasurer

The following persons are members of the Committee:
Rev. A. Clayton Powell Councilman
James Waterman Wise
Charles Collins
Dorothy [illegible]
Theodore Jackson Eastern Regional Director Mining Car Employees AF of L.
Hope [illegible] Stevens
Sabine Martinez
[illegible] Tammany District Leader 17th Assembly District
George Murphy
Eugene Connolly
Assemblyman [illegible]
Assemblyman Daniel [illegible] Burrows
Saint Clair Bourne Editor of Peoples' Voice
James [illegible]
Wilfred [illegible]
xxxxxxxxx [illegible] Burley [illegible] Editor Eastern Star News
[illegible]
Attorney [illegible]
Rev. William [illegible] President, National Baptist Sunday School Union.
Dr. [illegible]
[illegible] Pastor Salem Church

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61-6728-256

NOTES DESTROYED
[illegible] APR 24 1951

[illegible], United Office and Professional Workers
Irving Sherman, Painters District Council No.9 AF of L
Donellan J. Phillips
Norman Rosenfeld
Samuel Westerger
[illegible]
Bishop James A. Gray, President Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in A.
Earl B. Dickerson FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Com)
C.B. Powell Publisher Amsterdam Star News
Bishop David [illegible] Sims African Method Episcopal Church

The National Emergency Committee xxxxxxx to Stop Lynching is calling a huge mass meeting jointly with the National Negro Congress and the Salem Church Lyceum. The meeting will be held Sunday October [illegible] at Salem Church 1[illegible]th Street and 7th Avenue.

[redacted]

67D

11/1/42

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
WENDELL BERGE

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
LYNCHING OF CHARLIE LONG AND
ERNIE GREEN, MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI,
OCTOBER 12, 1942;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

LYNCHING OF HOWARD WASH,
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

It has been confidentially reported that the National Emergency Conference Against Lynching held its first meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt at New York City on October 18, 1942, under the auspices of the National Negro Congress and Congressman Vito Marcantonio. This meeting was called in protest of the recent lynchings which occurred in Mississippi, at which time it was decided to form the National Emergency Committee Against Lynching, in which persons from all parts of the country would be asked to participate. It was decided that two delegations should be organized, representative of various groups from all sections of the country, one delegation being designated to visit the President and the other to visit the Governor of Mississippi. The delegation selected to visit the President would be instructed to demand that a state of national emergency exists regarding lynchings and that individuals responsible for the lynchings should be regarded as traitors to America and appropriately prosecuted.

It is also reported that the Communist element contends that lynchings create national disunity which is comparable to sabotaging the war effort, and for that reason, individuals taking part should be treated the same as saboteurs. On this assumption they proceeded to demand that the services of all persons participating in organizations and individuals, according to the confidential report, were asked to send letters and telegrams to the President and the Governor of Mississippi.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

For your further information, this confidentially reported that the following individuals were elected officers of this new organization:

Vito Marcantonio	President
Ferdinand Smith	Secretary
Dr. Max Yergan	Treasurer.

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DATE 4/26/7[illegible]

The following individuals are reputedly members of the Committee:

Reverend A. Clayton Powell, Councilman
James Waterman Wise
Charles Collins
Dorothy K. Funn
Theodore Jackson, Eastern Regional Director, Dining Car Employees, AF of L.
Hope R. Stevens
Sabina Martinez
James Pemberton, Tammany District Leader, 17th Assembly District
George Murphy
Eugene Connolly
Jack Hulan, Assemblyman
Daniel L. Burrows, Assemblyman
Saint Clair Bourne, Editor of People's Voice
James Egert Allen
Wilfred W. Lewin
Dan Burley, Managing Editor, Amsterdam Star News
J. Isserman
Attorney Sara Pelham Speaks
Reverend William H. Jernagin, President, National Baptist Sunday School Union
Dr. F. Douglas Speaks
Reverend C. Y. Triggs, Pastor, Salem Church
Evelyn Adler, United Office and Professional Workers
Irving Sherman, Painters District Council, No. 9, AF of L.
Donellan J. Phillips
Herman Rosenfeld
Samuel Neuberger
Ida B. Guggenheimer
Bishop James A. Bray, President, Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America
Earl B. Dickerson, Fair Employment Practices Committee
C. B. Powell, Publisher, Amsterdam Star News
Bishop David H. Sims, African Methodist Episcopal Church

The above is being furnished you for your information [redacted]

b7c

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

50 (2-7-79)

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DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffee
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Date: October 6, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MUMFORD

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Attached hereto is photostatic material concerning the captioned matter obtained by the Washington Field Office from the files of [redacted] This material was made available gratuitously by [redacted] and was forwarded to the Bureau by letter from the Washington Field Office dated August 27, 1942.

b7D

Respectfully,

K. R. McIntire

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Enclosures

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM [illegible]
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N. Y. FILE NO. 100-619

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	11-16-42	9-1,8,9-42	[redacted] b7C /dhc

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] b7D

[redacted] National Convention at Washington, D. C., in 1939; local charter not active for past year and a half and membership never more than twenty. ALICE BURKE, Secretary of Communist Party for State of Virginia, attended one meeting. [redacted] states organization has no "teeth"; that in his opinion organization was to be used as front organization for Communist Party. Local council still alive, but inactive. b7C

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 19, 1941, at Richmond, Virginia. Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 5, 1942, at Richmond, Virginia. b7C

DETAILS: AT ROANOKE, VIRGINIA:

[redacted] advised that he has had considerable contact with the activities of the National Negro Congress in the City of Roanoke. He stated that in 1939, [redacted] the National Convention which was held in Washington, D. C., [redacted] he went on to say that in 1920 b7D b7D

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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[illegible] - Bureau [illegible]

[illegible] ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/2/[illegible] BY [illegible]

The Council at Roanoke, Virginia, was officially formed and a charter was adopted at that time. The officers were JOSEPH TYREE, President; [illegible]BY, [illegible] Secretary; and GEORGE DANIELS, Treasurer. [redacted] b7D
[illegible] as he knows these men still hold those respective offices although to his knowledge the organization has not been holding any meetings and has not been active in Roanoke during the past year and a half.

b7D

[redacted] Regarding the number of members he stated that in 1940 or 1941, the local council put on a membership campaign and that JOHN P. DAVIS was brought here to speak on one occasion in an effort to increase the membership. However, the membership was never more than eighteen or twenty and ordinarily all of these did not attend the meetings. Continuing, he stated that during 1940 and the early part of 1941, meetings were held usually on a monthly basis at the Colored Y.M.C.A. in Roanoke. Regarding the aims and purposes of the organization he stated that on the surface it appeared that the council was trying to get wage increases for the negro and trying to remedy certain situations wherein the negro was being discriminated against. However, he stated that in his opinion the organization does not have any "teeth". When asked to amplify on this statement, he added that no specific plans were outlined indicating the method which would be used to gain these advantages. Whenever a situation occurred wherein it appeared to members that a member of the colored race had been done a definite injustice, arrangements would be made to direct a letter to the National headquarters which was originally in Washington, but is now in New York City. However, although such letters were written it appeared that no action was ever taken to prevent recurrences of such situations.

b7D

[redacted] it became apparent to him that this organization was more than the name implied. He stated that there were numerous individuals there of various nationalities and colors and that it became apparent to him that the Communist Party might have an interest in the progress of this organization. He stated that he recalls white people being present at a Roanoke meeting only on one occasion at which time [illegible], Secretary of the Communist Party, put in an appearance with two white men whose names he does not know. He stated that he is of the opinion that these men were at that time employed at the American Viscose Corporation in Roanoke. He further stated that these people simply sat in and listened to what took place at the meeting and did not make any suggestions or observations. b7C

b7D

[redacted] stated that JOSEPH TYREE, who is the President of the local council, is a talkative individual who has very little education. He is employed as a silk worker at the American Viscose Corporation and resides at [illegible] Patton Avenue, N.W., Roanoke, Virginia. In closing [redacted] stated that the Roanoke Council of the National Negro Congress was still alive but inactive.

b7D

[redacted] advi[illegible]
[illegible] kept in close touch with general activities in the [illegible]
[illegible] Colored L. M. C. L., and that he has learned of no recent meetings or
activities on the part of the National Negro Congress in Roanoke, Virginia.

[illegible] UPON COMPLAINT TO THE OFFICE OF [illegible]

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE [illegible] FIELD DIVISION

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA:

* Will conduct investigation in order to determine the background and political affiliations of [redacted]

b7C

RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

FILE NO. [illegible]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	11/25/42	9/22,24,26/42	[redacted] WSM:PD

b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation fails to disclose instant organization active in Suffolk, Virginia. [redacted]

b7E

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Norfolk, Virginia, dated August 24, 1942.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, dated February 25, 1941.

b7C

DETAILS: AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

The following persons were questioned to ascertain if the instant organization exixts in Suffolk, Virginia, and advised that they had never heard that it did: [redacted] and [redacted] Suffolk, Virginia.

b7C

[redacted]

b7E

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100-213

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] the reference report b7C
of [redacted] reflects that on April 26, 28, 1940, the Third National Negro Congress convened at Washington, D. C. At that time, W. H. CROCKER, Suffolk, Virginia was listed as having represented the State of Virginia on the National Executive Board of instant organization. In view of these facts, it is believed that CROCKER may still be active in this organization.

By letter dated September 8, 1942, [redacted] advised this b7D
office [redacted], had some information relative to instant organization. [redacted]

-PENDING-

100-213

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NORFOLK FIELD DIVISION

AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

b7c,D

Will interview [redacted] and [redacted] relative to further information concerning instant organization. Will consider the advisability of interviewing [redacted] for information relative to the activities of instant organization [redacted]

-PENDING-

To: Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

63

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

It is requested that you advise if the failure on the part of this organization to comply with the above-mentioned Treasury Department regulation is a violation of any Federal statute and, if so, what action can be taken with regard to the organization.

MAILED
DEC 10 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DATE 4/26/79 BY SP-1 65K/2W

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61-6728-262 pp 1-4

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Tr. 10-9-3
61-3728-2618

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

63

[redacted]

It is requested that you advise if the failure on the part of this organization to comply with the above-mentioned Treasury Department regulation is a violation of any Federal statute and, if so, what action can be taken with regard to the organization.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A.
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Slavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Gordon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hoover
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
DEC 10 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM
DEC 10 2 28 PM '42

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DATE 4/26/79 BY SP-1 GSK/RH

68 JAN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK FILE NO. [illegible]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	12-3-42	9-17,23;10-22, 26-42	[redacted] b7C TR:dfs

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] unable to furnish additional information relative to the National Negro Congress. [redacted] unable to furnish any information relative to the National Negro Congress in San Antonio [redacted] both unable to offer any information relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress. b7D b7D

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 9-23-42 at San Antonio, Texas. b7C

DETAILS: [redacted] advised that he was not in possession of [redacted] information relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress. [redacted] stated that he was utilizing the services of [redacted] is making an effort to obtain an up-to-date membership list of the local branch of the National Negro Congress, and up to the present time has met with very little success [redacted] was unable to obtain an up-to-date membership list of the local branch of the b7D

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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2 - New York
3 - San Antonio

DOCUMENT DESTROYED

10 DEC [illegible]

National Negro Congress, he,is, according to [redacted] going to make up a list from memory and furnish the same to this office.

67D

[redacted] furnish approximately the same information relative to the membership and activities of the National Negro Congress as was contained in the reference report of Special Agent [redacted] and consequently is not being set out here. [redacted] However, furnish this agent with a copy of the National Negro Congress News, published at 290 Lenox Avenue, New York City dated August 21, 1942 which, after being reviewed, failed to contain anything of a subversive nature or any information that might furnish this office with additional leads relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress within the San Antonio Field Division. A copy of the National Negro News is incorporated in this file.

[redacted] upon re-contact advised that he did not have in his possession any additional information relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress that had not already been furnished this agent at a previous date. [redacted] visited this office in person at which time he indicated a desire to cooperate with the Bureau and obtain information relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress within the San Antonio Field Division. [redacted] further stated that he had never at any time been a member of the National Negro Congress, and consequently was not familiar with their activities. [redacted] would endeavor to obtain information concerning the activities of the National Negro Congress.

E N D I N G.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

[illegible] FIELD DIVISION:

[illegible]STIN, TEXAS:

Will obtain all available information relative to the activities and membership of the National Negro Congress.

[illegible] TEXAS:

Will obtain all available information relative to present activities and membership of the National Negro Congress.

[illegible] ANTONIO, TEXAS:

Will retain contact with [redacted] in order to obtain all current information relative to the present activities and membership of the National Negro Congress.

b7D

Will also contact [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining all available information in their possession relative to the activities and membership in the National Negro Congress.

[illegible]

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Date: December 7, 1942

To: SAC, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover, - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

You are instructed to refer to my letter of October 22, 1942, and advise by return mail what action you have taken with regard to my request contained therein.

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Coffey
Hendon
Cramer
McGuire
Quinn Tamm
Case
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 7
DEC 8 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

61-6728-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 9 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEC 10 1942

85

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N. Y. SL FILE NO. [illegible]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI	11-28-42	5-26; 9-6; 10-7; 11-2-42.	67C [redacted]

	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: OWEN H. WHITFIELD, Vice President, National organization of National Negro Congress, active union organizer in Missouri. No information developed as to a local chapter of National Negro Congress.

- RUC -

67C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 11, 1941 at St. Louis, Missouri.

67D

DETAILS: [redacted]

The records of the St. Louis Star-Times newspaper were checked

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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- St. Louis

16 DEC 1 1942

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52 DEC 23 1942

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1-104

b7c

[illegible] portin[illegible] agent and nothing was observed which would [illegible] [illegible] set out in reference report of Special Agent [redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted] stated further that [illegible] had heard of [illegible] National [illegible] Congress [illegible] he had also heard that [illegible] Reverend [illegible] was [illegible] in the national organization, but that he had never heard of any local activities of the National Negro Congress in or around St. Louis. [redacted] stated that most of his work in connection with his duties were among the colored people and that he was [illegible] that if there had ever been a local National Negro Congress Chapter here, he would have known about it.

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7D
b7C

[redacted] advised that he had been unable to find any evidence of a local [illegible] of the National Negro Congress in the St. Louis area. [redacted]

b7D

b7C

[redacted]

b7c

Since there is no evidence that there is ever a local chapter of the [illegible] in St. Louis, Missouri, no further investigation is being conducted in this Division.

- [illegible] -

50 (2-7-79)

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

PARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 17, 1942

Mr. Nichols

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: National Negro Congress

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum of December 10, 1942, in which you advise that the above named organization has not complied with Treasury Department Decision No. 2125 of March 5, 1942. The failure of this organization to comply will be taken up with the Treasury Department and you will be notified if further action on your part is desired in connection therewith.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General

DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BOND AND STAMPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N. Y. FILE NO. 100-380

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CINCINNATI, OHIO	12-11-42	12-2-42	[redacted] b7c EJ

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] and [redacted] advise that subject organization is out of existence in Cincinnati, Ohio. b7D

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Ohio, dated 4-24-42. b7c

DETAILS: AT CINCINNATI, OHIO

[redacted] advised that he had ascertained that the National Negro Congress no longer exists in Cincinnati, Ohio. b7D

[redacted] advised that he had no knowledge of any activities of the National Negro Congress at the present time. b7D

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* REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN *

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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2 - Cincinnati

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61-6728-266 p2

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THP:JC
100-949

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, 1435 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C.

January 4, 1943

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letters dated October 22, 19[illegible], and [illegible] 7, 1942, requesting that the Bureau be furnished with [redacted] if the same was in possession of this office.

b7D

Please be advised that this [illegible] is not at present available to this office and the information set out in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 9, 1942, at Washington, D. C., is the only information this office now has concerning the above-mentioned [illegible].

b7c

Very truly yours,

S. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge

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R 16 4 APR [illegible]

Pittsburgh, Pa. January 5 1943
(Field Office) (Date)

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

This case was received 12-17-40.
(Date)

The source or complainant:

Bureau teletype requesting all offices to report on Communist Fronts
(Name)

(Address)

*Summary of Complaint:

b7C

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Pittsburgh, Pa. 6-29-42.

This case after due consideration has been placed in a deferred status. ~~It will receive appropriate attention immediately when personnel is available.~~ The reason is that it exists but go long periods without any activity which can be reported on. It still exists in name only, ver, and is being deferred until such as it gets active again.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Thornton

J. E. THORNTON, 61-6768
Special Agent in Charge

[illegible]:K[illegible]
100-162
cc - New York, Office of origin

*If Bureau files contain information in field office files, list Bureau file number or refer to agent's report.

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DATE 4/26/79

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:AAR:AL

146-1-25

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: National Negro Congress
290 Lenox Avenue
New York, New York

[redacted]

Respectfully,

63

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

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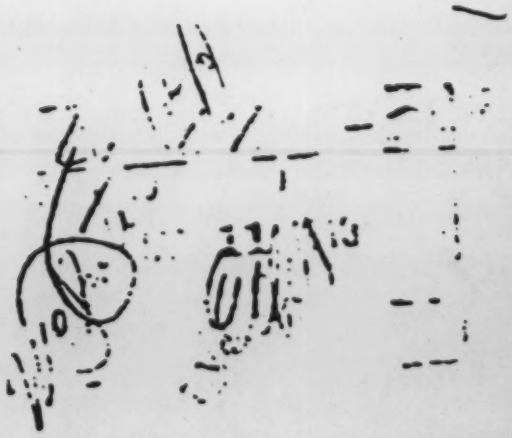

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

54 JAN 19 1943

January 8, 1943

S'C, Washington

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Dear Sir:

Your continued disregard for my instructions contained in my letters of October 22 and December 7, 1942, is not understandable. You are instructed to immediately comply with such instructions.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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MAILED 2
JAN 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-[illegible]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	1-8-43	11-27;12-3-42	[redacted] b7C TRW:dfs

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] advises that the National Negro Congress is inactive at the present time. Last meeting held approximately six months ago at the Crockett Hotel. [redacted] and [redacted] unable to offer any information concerning the activities of the National Negro Congress. b7D

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 12-3-42

DETAILS: [redacted] stated that meetings of the National Negro Congress have not been held in San Antonio since the meeting at the Crockett Hotel at [illegible] JOHN [illegible] AN, [redacted], was present as a speaker. [redacted], has met with little success in his effort to obtain a membership list of the National Negro Congress for San Antonio. [redacted] b7C b7D b7C

[redacted] contacted [redacted] a member b7D

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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b7C

of the National Negro Congress. [redacted] an uneducated negress who was not familiar with the aims and purposes of the National Negro Congress, and is of the opinion that the Congress is working for the advancement of the Negro race. [redacted] that there were no meetings of the National Negro Congress at the present time. The last one having taken place in the Crockett Hotel at approximately six months ago. [redacted] is on the mailing list of the National Negro Congress and receives every issue of the National Negro Congress News from the Congress headquarters at 290 Lenox Avenue, New York City. [redacted] advised [redacted] would notify him the next time a meeting of the Congress was scheduled for San Antonio.

b7D

[redacted] that while she was aware of the existance of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio and familiar with G. J. SUTTON, the president of the Congress, she was of the opinion the Congress was inactive at the present time. The membership in the National Negro Congress, according to [redacted] never reached great proportion among the negro population, and the membership at the present time is, according to [redacted] not in excess of 30 or 40 members. [redacted] said her contacts among the negro people in San Antonio were of the opinion that should such meetings be taking place she would most certainly hear about them.

b7D

[redacted] and [redacted] were unable to offer any information relative to the activities of the Congress other than the fact that a branch of the National Negro Congress is in existance in the city of San Antonio under the presidency of C. J. SUTTON.

PENDING.

UNWATCHED LEADS

SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Will retain contact with [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining additional information relative to the activities of the National Negro Congress. b7D

Will re-contact [redacted] for the purpose of determining the connection between the National Negro Congress and the Communist Party in San Antonio. b7D

PENDING.

50 (2-7-79)

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

KR [illegible]
[illegible]

January 15, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSP/PH
ON 4/26/79

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is the original and one copy of a report of [redacted] dated January 14, 1943, on the above captioned matter.

b7D

[redacted] advises that JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary, and GEORGE MURPHY, Administrative Secretary of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, have resigned and are devoting their time to work on the NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH THE POLL TAX. This group is gradually liquidating and now exists in name only, its entire membership being composed entirely of party members and sympathizers, and the Communists that were active are now active in other union front groups.

Two copies of the above report are being retained in the files of the New York office.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

Classification
7/4/79 SP-1 [illegible]

cc N.Y. File 65-10519

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CONFIDENTIAL
100-94

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1943

Director - FBI

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 8, 1943, Bureau file 61-6728, instructing that Bureau letters of October 22 and December 7, 1942, be complied with.

The Bureau is advised that the desired information was furnished the Bureau in a letter dated January 4, 1943. It is regretted that this matter was not given more prompt attention and the Bureau is advised that I have taken steps to see that there will be no reoccurrence of such dilatory tactics.

Yours truly,

S. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge

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Federal Bureau of Investigati

United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

MET:MW
100-3633

January 27, 1943

Declassification 9/6/79 SP-1 GSS

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RH
ON 4/26/79

Director, FBI

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

There are being transmitted herewith, two copies of the report of [redacted] dated January 21, 1943, relative to a party for GEORGE MURPHY, former Administrative Secretary of the National Negro Congress, who, according to informant, is being inducted into the Army. 67D

The party was held at the home of MAX YERGAN, [redacted] It will be noted that ADAM CLAYTON POWELL attended this party, [redacted] 67C

This office will endeavor to verify [redacted] information that GEORGE MURPHY is being inducted into the U. S. Army, and the Office of Military Intelligence will be notified.

Two copies of [redacted] report are being retained in the files of instant case in the New York Field Division. 67D

Very truly yours,

T. J. Donegan

T. J. DONEGAN
SAC

Enc.

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62 FEB [illegible]

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Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
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Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EHW:PW

January 28, 1943

Call: 10:[illegible] A.M.,
1/28/43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WELCH

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY

b7c

At the above time, Special Agent [redacted] the Washington Field Division called in your absence and advised that the National Negro Congress will attempt to revive the Washington branch of that organization. Thelma Dale, Negress [redacted] is presently acting as Executive Secretary. A new plan has also been inaugurated by the National Negro Congress to build an organization of "a base membership" rather than maintain its old status, that of being a group made up of individuals representing other groups. It is also planned by the organization that it will cooperate with other organizations on matters pertinent to the Negro situation.

b7c

Among the individuals named who are to be active in the reorganization plans in Washington are:

Alpheus Hunton
Doxey Wilkerson
Jewell Mazique
Mike Greenfield-Drake
Herman _____

Respectfully,

E. H. Winterrowd

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT	FILE NO.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK	100-1467 BJM

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	2/1/43	1/5, 11/43	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject organization inactive in State of New Jersey at present time. Was last active in 1938 in Newark, New Jersey under the Sponsoring Committee of the Newark Council. Subject organization reflected strong Communist domination. [redacted] and [redacted] b7C leading figures of the Newark Council, were admitted members of the Communist Party. The Provisional Committee for a Negro Youth Federation was set up by the Communist group in Newark in 1941 to replace the local Council of the National Negro Congress.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 9, 1941 at Omaha, Nebraska. b7C

DETAILS: In the reference report, it was stated that the National Negro Congress was active in Atlantic City, New Jersey and that twenty-five organizations comprised the local council in that city. The Atlantic City Council was supposedly engaged in civic campaigns for the improvement of the neighborhood conditions and had prepared itself to deal with the conditions of unemployment and Jim Crowism. It was further reported that there were between fifty and seventy-five people on the Youth Committee in Atlantic City.

This information as set forth in the reference report was taken from a report of the national secretary of the National Negro Congress dated at Cleveland, Ohio on June 19 and 20, 1936.

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b7D

[redacted] reported that the National Negro Congress had not been active in Atlantic City, New Jersey since 1938. He stated that during the time it was operated in that city, membership was composed of some of the outstanding Negro people in that city, and that they were primarily interested in the affairs concerning the welfare of the colored people.

b7D

[redacted] reported that the local Council objected to Jim Crow movements in public places and had at one time filed suit for damages against the Royal Theater, Ohio and Atlantic Avenues, when Negro citizens were assaulted and denied the right to use certain seats in the theater.

He further advised that the membership of the National Negro Congress Council in Atlantic City never included as many as fifty persons, and stated that it was not attached to a Youth Committee, although at one time a delegation of young people attended a meeting of the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with the idea of organizing a Youth Committee in Atlantic City. Later it was ascertained that the branch in Philadelphia leaned to the Communist Party line and the idea of establishing a Youth Committee in Atlantic City was abandoned.

Dr. ALBERT FORSYTHE, a well-known physician and welfare worker in Atlantic City, was an active member of the Congress and sponsored civic moves to beautify the North Side or the negro section of Atlantic City.

Dr. J. MORLONS SCOTT was the last president of the Atlantic City Council of Subject Organization. Miss RHODES, formerly employed by the Apex Hair and News Company, was the last secretary of the group.

[redacted] stated that the National Negro Congress had not been active in Newark, New Jersey since the early part of 1938, at which time the local Council of the National Negro Congress picketed the five and ten cent store on Springfield Avenue. b7D

[redacted] stated that the five and ten cent store was located in a Negro section and that a goodly portion of the trade at the store was with Negro people. The National Negro Congress picketed the store in an effort to force the manager to employ at least one Negro sales girl. [redacted] advised that at the time the picketing began, the store was employing two Negroes, one as a porter and one as a truck driver; and that following the picketing and court controversy, the store discharged the Negro porter and truck driver and employed a Negro sales girl at a very meager salary.

[redacted] advised that Mrs. J. O. HILL was the president of the Newark Council and stated, however, that the dominating figure was the secretary, ELWOOD DEAN, [redacted] He stated that one, ALBERT CROMB, also appeared as an agent for the National Negro Congress at the time of the picketing. b7C

b7D

From [redacted] it was learned that the picketing began on March 11, 1938 and that an injunction was taken out by the proprietor of the F. W. Grand Silver Store, 192 Springfield Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, to prevent the picketing of his establishment. At that time, the agent for the National

Negro Congress was ALBERT CROLE and the attorney for the National Negro Congress was ROGER YANCEY. SAMUEL ROTHBART, attorney for the CIO, also appeared as an attorney for the National Negro Congress.

[redacted] stated that there were forty-five members of the Congress in Essex County, New Jersey, but that there were hundreds of sympathizers with the movement. She admitted at that time that the Communist Party was lending an active support to the Congress and other groups assisting in the picketing of the store included the North Jersey Baptist Ministers Conference, the Workers Alliance, the Negro Elks, the Newark Urban League, and the Newark Interracial Council. b7D

In July of 1938, the State of New Jersey appointed a committee to study the Negro problem. Among those appointed to this committee was ROGER M. YANCEY, Newark attorney, who is attorney for the National Negro Congress. From [redacted] it was learned that, as a result of this committee's having been set up, the National Negro Congress gradually became a nonentity.

b7D

[redacted]

b7C

From [redacted] there was obtained photostatic copies of the letterhead of the Sponsoring Committee of the National Negro Congress Council, City of Newark. This letterhead listed the officers and the local endorsers for the National Negro Congress, which are as follows. b7D

Mrs. J. OTTO HILL, Chairman, 84 Barclay Street, Newark, New Jersey.
Mr. MAYO, National Presidium, National Negro Congress.
ELWOOD McDEAN, Secretary.
LILLIE BREWER, Treasurer.
NEIL FRANK, National Organizer, United Electric and Radio Workers of America, C. I. O.
ALCO [illegible], President, Used Products Workers Union.
LILLIE BREWER, President, Domestic Workers Union.
OLIVE BROWN, Business Manager, Newark Herald.

100-1457

Reverend J. G. BRYANT, Vaux Hall, New Jersey.
J. J. CARNEY, Regional Director, C. I. O.
[illegible] CLARK, Editor, New Jersey Guardian
[illegible] T. EKRDEN
Reverend W. W. FLEMING, President, Baptist Ministers Conference.
LEON GALANOS, Business Agent, Local No. 27, National Leather Workers Association.
Reverend L. HAMILTON GARNER
ARTHUR W. HARDY, Executive Secretary, Court Street Y. M. C. A.
Reverend W. P. HAYES, Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church.
Dr. J. OTTO HILL.
HAROLD A. LETT, Executive Secretary, New Jersey Urban League.
Reverend J. P. E. LOVE, New Hope Baptist Church, Hackensack.
Mrs. ANNA MONROE
Dr. A. V. MORRIS.
NORMAN PAUL, General Organizer, International Fur Workers Union, C. I. O.
Dr. A. A. PHILLIPS, City Physician
Dr. L. D. SAVOY.
Mrs. L. D. SAVOY
ALBERT L. SMITH, District Representative, United Mine Workers of America, District 50, Chemical Division, C. I.C.
SAMUEL S. STEWART, Secretary, North Civic Association.
THOMAS T. TUCKER, Pastor, Union Baptist Church.
Reverend W. T. WATKINS, Orange, New Jersey.
Dr. J. J. WILLIAMS
Dr. W. W. WOLFE.
EMILY E. WOOD, Executive Secretary, Sojourner Truth Branch, Y. W. C. A.

A review of the endorsers of the National Negro Congress reflects that there was considerable Communist domination among the endorsers; particularly, [redacted] b7c

[redacted] advised that in 1941, an incident arose in the city of Newark in which the restaurant operator on Clinton Avenue allegedly refused to wait on Negro people and was accused of forcibly ejecting them from his luncheonette. Following the news story on this incident, postal cards were received by the Mayor of the City of Newark from various sources protesting "such Jim Crow" actions in the City of Newark. b7D

[redacted] these postal cards were sent out as a result of the activity of the Provisional Committee for the Negro Youth Federation which was set up by the Communist leaders to replace the defunct National Negro Congress. The chairman of the Provisional Committee was ELWOOD [illegible] [redacted] b7c

100-1467

[redacted] b7C

b7D

[redacted] advised that the Provisional Committee ceased to exist shortly after the above-mentioned incident and that such incident was quietly handled by the city courts.

Inasmuch as there is no activity on the part of subject organization in the Newark Field Division, this case is being considered as referred upon completion to the office of origin.

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F[illegible]ERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

F[illegible]
[illegible] NEW YORK, NEW YORK File No. 10[illegible]-619

Report Made at	Date When Made	Period for which made	Report Made by
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	1-31-43	1-4-43	[redacted] b7C JEL:DNB

Title	Character of Case
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: JOHN P. DAVIS, president, National Negro Congress, appeared at Suffolk, Virginia, October 1942, and presented a brief to the War Production Board in support of an increase in salary to negroes employed in the World's largest peanut market at Suffolk, Virginia. The workers are members of UCAPAWA CIO. DAVIS spoke at the organizational meeting for Local 35[illegible], UCAPAWA CIO, 10-15-41, Richmond, Va.

[redacted] b7E

- P -

[illegible]: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 11-1[illegible]-4[illegible] at Richmond, Virginia. b7C

DETAILS:

AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

[redacted] stated that JOHN P. DAVIS, president of the National Negro Congress, appeared at Suffolk, Virginia in October 1942, and presented a well-prepared brief to the War Production Board in support of an increase in salary to negroes employed in the peanut factories at the World's b7D

Approved forward	SAC	Do Not Write in These Spaces

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100-619

[illegible] Suffolk, Virginia. The negro workers in the various [illegible] of the UCAPAWA CIO.

According to the UCAPAWA News of October 15, 1941, JOHN P. DAVIS spoke at the organizational meeting for Local 350, UCAPAWA CIO at Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 1941.

[redacted] b7E

It is noted that the report of reference indicates on page 23 that this case was referred upon completion to the office of origin. The [illegible] under the synopsis left the report as pending. In view of the fact [illegible] set out for this office, the case probably should have been [illegible] pending status. This has been corrected in the Richmond Office, [illegible] should be corrected in the Bureau and the New York Office.

-PENDING-

100-619

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

RICHMOND FIELD DIVISION:

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA:

* Will conduct investigation in order to determine the background and political affiliations of [redacted]

b2c

-PENDING-

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOR [illegible] NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 100-406

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	1-29-43	12-21-22,42; 1-4,6,12-43	[redacted] 67C MCV

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information regarding negro agitation for jobs at the Glenn L. Martin plant set out. Informant advised subject organization is not presently active in Baltimore, Maryland. Not well supported in Baltimore. Said to be Communist infiltrated. No definite meeting place. Meetings when held are in Negro church auditoriums when obtainable. [redacted] there is no branch of this organization presently in existence in Baltimore City. 67D

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 10/8/41 at Washington, D. C. 67C
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 12/16/41 at Baltimore, Maryland.

DETAILS:

[redacted] evening of Thursday April 23, 1942, he heard over a loud speaker attached to the above church a person

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1 - G-2, Baltimore
2 - Baltimore

DATE [illegible]

talking [illegible] inside of the church who was introducing Rev. POWELL [illegible]

POWELL, it was advised, stated, "We are now at the cross roads, we will never again have this opportunity, now is the time to strike and to strike with a solid blow. Some of us may go down, but there will be others to take our place. This country can not win this war without us Negroes and with the help of the Negroes, this country can win this war by the skin of its teeth. If they want us to fight, then given us something to fight for."

POWELL also mentioned the population of Negroes living in the vicinity of the Panama Canal, the life line of the United States.

This file review also revealed that it was being contemplated to start a movement to force Negro employment on the Glenn L. Martin Company. [redacted]

b7D

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An article in the October 8, 1938 issue of the Baltimore "Sun" reflected the following individuals as the officers of the Baltimore branch of the National Negro Congress:

GOUGH McDANIELS, President (Presently deceased)
ELDORA E. DERRICKS, Treasurer
FRANK SCOTT, Executive Secretary

In the article in the same paper under date of September 28, 1940 it was reflected that the former executive secretary FRANK SCOTT had been replaced by a Dr. FLOYD R. BANKS in that capacity.

b7D

On December 2[illegible] 1942 [redacted] it was determined that to the best of his knowledge the National Negro Congress in Baltimore was organized sometime in 1935. This date he could not be sure of. As he recalled it, the first meeting of this group was held in the Union Baptist Church in Baltimore.

[redacted]

b7D

He stated that he had first thought that this was a reputable organization inasmuch as JOHN DAVIS and A. POWELL RANDOLPH were connected with the same. He said that at the time these men both were well known in Negro circles. [redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] relate that to his knowledge this Baltimore branch of the National Negro Congress had never been overly active in this city since its inception. He advised that they had no regular meeting place and that their meetings were held in church auditoriums when they could be obtained. He did not recall any place where a meeting was held with the exception of the Negro Elks auditorium where a meeting had been held.

[redacted] b7D

on January 4, 1943 that the National Negro Congress organized a branch sometime in 1937 and that much of the organization work was done by one [redacted] who was an active Negro Communist organizer in Baltimore. Many members were obtained at this time due to the number of colored churches that displayed interest in this new organization and who sent delegates to the first meeting. b7C

He said that this was true of many new Negro organizations. He said further that the enthusiasm fell off quite early when it was learned that the organization was inspired by sources outside of the Negro race. He stated that it was considered a pressure group by the Urban League which figured that the organization could furnish many attendants for the affairs.

This he said was the extent of their interest in the Negro Congress. He said that it was his opinion that many reliable citizens were taken in by the "Negro appeal" of the Congress, but were quick to drop out when Communist tendencies were shown. He stated that in his many contacts with colored groups, he felt that this organization was not at all active to date. He said that he would call it a "paper or skeleton" organization at the present time.

He said that he does not know the meeting place of this group, nor does he recall the names of any of the present officers. He said that he is inclined to feel that the organization is very weak inasmuch as many of the prominent colored citizens had withdrawn their support.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7E

Regarding the National Negro Congress, this informant stated that a delegate of the Negro Insurance Underwriters of Baltimore was sent to the National Negro Congress conference at the Whitelaw Hotel in Washington, D.C. This he said was sometime prior to 1939. He said that the motive for the National Negro Congress seemed to be the securing of better working conditions for the people of all races, [redacted] b7D He said that at the conference there were both white and colored people and that he learned that there were some white Communists at the conference, but he could not state definitely that this gathering could be called Communist dominated.

He stated that GOUGE McDANIELS, a local school teacher was the head of the Baltimore branch of the Congress and that he had just recently died and that he, [redacted] knows nothing of its activities today. b7D

He said, however, apparently it is not very active or it would have in some manner been called to the attention of the more prominent Negro citizens in the city either by newspaper publicity or meetings.

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7C,D

The following information was obtained from the library of the Baltimore "Sun" on January 6, 1943. An article dated August 31, 1938 showed that the National Negro Congress had set the dates of October 7 and 9, 1938 as being the conference dates for the organization to be held at the Elks Hall at Baltimore, Maryland. This was to be the headquarters for the Eastern Regional session of the Congress . The conference plans were announced by FRANK SCOTT, secretary of the Baltimore Council of the Congress. The address of the Elks Hall was given as 1529 Madison Avenue. The conference was to be devoted to the problems affecting the Negro people. Under date of October 7, 1938 it was announced that the delegates to the National Negro Congress conferring in Baltimore were 700 strong and were to participate in a 2-day conference.

It was stated that the delegates came from Maine to Washington, D.C.

FRANK SCOTT, Executive Secretary of the local council will be planning the formation of councils in various cities and the adoption of a program of liberal legislation for delegates to lay before political contacts in their representative states before the fall elections.

[illegible] down that the officers of the local council in addition to [illegible] SCOTT were GOUGH McDANIELS, president, and DUORA E. DERRICKS, treasurer.

An article under date of October 9, 1938 stated that: "More Jobs is the goal of Negro Congress. Speaker urges voters to back candidates who will benefit colored race more. Anti-lynching bill is called another matter of concern."

JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress, said that the aim of the conference was to back legislation which would benefit Negroes. He said the conference represented 250,000 votes in the Eastern Region.

The speakers at the conference were JOHN PERDUE of Philadelphia, chairman of Philadelphia Jobs Committee; BELFORD V. LAWSON, Washington attorney; Mrs. J. OTTOWELL, Newark, N. J., chariman of the Newark Negro Congress; Rev. ADAM POWELL of New York City, chairman Harlem Coordinating Committee for jobs.

Dr. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER of Howard University, Washington, D. C. spoke on the "Problems of Relief among Negroes in Urban Centers". Rev. WILLIAM H JERNAGAN of Washington discussed "How to Conduct and Fight for Civil Rights for Negroes." and "The Organization of Negro Workers with Trade Unions".

Other speakers listed were Rev. ARTHUR GRAY, Washington, president of Washington Council, National Negro Congress; GEORGE BROWN, New York City, International Vice-President of Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union and U. SIMPSON TATE, representing the United Federal Workers of America.

An article dated October 10, 1938 said that a resolution was adopted declaring that congressional candidates in November elections must declare themselves in favor of the passage of the Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill to warrant the vote of the Negro electorate. Petition urging cessation of police brutality especially in the District of Columbia.

HOWARD CORNISH of Baltimore presided at a special youth session. JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary was in charge of a panel discussion on various topics.

Under Washington, D.C. dateline of April 28, 1940 the article stated that theThird National Negro Congress conference in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 1940 went CIO and also went Red. JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary, declared his sympathies for the people living in the Soviet. He said he was strongly drawn to their ideals of amity, collaboration and peace.

Everyone of the 38 State delegations included white people. This included [illegible]. These white delegates, it was explained, for the most part, were Communist and were admittedly influential in shaping the attitude of the Congress.

An article dated April 29, 1940 stated that the National Negro Congress accepted an invitation from JOHN L. LEWIS to join forces with Labor's Non-partisan League. A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, member National Negro Congress since its organization in Chicago in 1936 refused to stand for re-election as a result and MAX YERGAN, of New York, vice-president was elected to succeed him. RANDOLPH warned against a tie-up with political organizations and said the Congress accepted contributions from the Communist Party and the CIO.

EDGAR G. BROWN, Washington, president, United Government Workers, appealed for support of ROOSEVELT and was hissed and booed. He urged the Congress to declare "the white Communists in the audience."

An article dated April 20, 1940, stated the National Negro Congress is a federation of local Negro organizations including youth, labor and church units. Its set-up is in a number of respects like that of the American Youth Congress. The membership is scattered throughout the 38 states including a number of white persons interested in the breakdown of social barriers.

b7D

[redacted]

The following information is being quoted from an article contained in the Afro-American under date of January 12, 1942 regarding changes in the staff of the National Negro Congress:

"Dr. MAX YERGAN, national president of the National Negro Congress announced today that Miss THELMA M. DALE of Washington, D. C. has been named administrative secretary of the Congress by a recent act of the National Executive Board. Miss DALE succeeds GEORGE MURPHY, Jr. who recently resigned his post to join the United States Army after two years of outstanding service to the organization.

"Dr. YERGAN also announced that the resignation of JOHN P. DAVIS had been accepted, who leaves his post of executive secretary which he has occupied since the establishment of the Congress in Chicago in 1936."

"Miss DALE, a graduate of Howard University, has served as a member of the National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress since [illegible] and has been an active leader of the Washington Council of the NNC."

b7c

The leads set out in the reference report of Special Agent [redacted] dated December 16, 1941 at Baltimore, Maryland are being disregarded inasmuch as it has been definitely shown that there is no local branch of the National Negro Congress presently in existance in Baltimore, Maryland.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-220

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	2-1-43	1-25-43	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] advises subject organization assisted in the federation of approximately 3[illegible] Negro clubs in San Antonio. National Negro Congress inactive at the present time. [redacted] b7D [illegible] Membership list not in excess of 35 or 40. National Negro Congress not operating in city of Waco.

- P -

[illegible]: Report of Special Agent [redacted] [illegible] January 3, 1943 at San Antonio, Texas. b7C

[illegible]: [redacted] advised that the National Negro Congress is inactive at the present time. [redacted] b7D [illegible] This meeting was held under the sponsorship of the individual who was in charge of employment at the Union Baptist Church. This individual's name [redacted] was unable to recall, and at the present time he is not resident in San Antonio. [redacted]

[redacted] b7D, C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- Bureau
- New York
- San Antonio

16 [illegible] 4 [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible]

R 16 4 APR 22 [illegible]

[redacted]

67D

At the [illegible] meeting, [redacted] advised that the [illegible] did not exceed [illegible], and the total attendance in the National Negro Congress in San Antonio does not exceed [illegible] members. Of the 200 negro organizations in the city of San Antonio, [redacted] advised that 35 are affiliated with the [illegible] Negro Congress. Membership in an organization is, according [redacted] pre-requisite to joining the National Negro Congress. [redacted] advised [illegible] will [illegible] for the purpose of determining organizational affiliates of the National Negro Congress and officials and members of the organization.

67D

[redacted] stated that there has been no meetings of the [illegible] Congress since he was contacted by the reporting agent on [redacted]

These facts were reported in the report of this agent dated January 8, 1943 at San Antonio, Texas.

b7C,D

[redacted] advised [redacted] that there was no branch of the National Negro Congress operating in Waco to his knowledge.

b7C,D

[redacted] advised Agent [redacted] that he will obtain available information regarding the National Negro Congress in McLennan County.

b7D

[redacted] were unable to furnish any information pertaining to the National Negro Congress other than the fact that they believed that the SUTTONS and IRMAN would be connected with it if it did exist. Concerning the possible connection between the Communist Party and the National Negro Congress, [redacted] concluded by stating they do not possess any information that would substantiate this allegation.

b7D

PENDING.

50 (2-7-79)

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SA [illegible]-220

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION:

AT AUSTIN, TEXAS: Will obtain all available information relative to the members and activities of the National Negro Congress.

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Will retain contact with [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining additional information regarding members and activities of the National Negro Congress. b7D

Will recontact [redacted] for any additional information relative to the National Negro Congress. b7D

AT WACO, TEXAS: [redacted] of McLennan County for all available information as to the existance of the National Negro Congress in McLennan County. b7D

PENDING.

50 (2-7-79)

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

95714

MET:MVW
100-3633

February 6, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RH
ON 4/26/79

Director, FBI

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

There are being transmitted herewith two copies of the report of [redacted] dated February 1, 1943 relative to the captioned organization.

[redacted]. This report also reflects that three regional conferences are proposed for the months of March, April and May, 1943. The place where these conferences are to be held is not known.

[redacted] advises that the officers of the National Negro Congress are presently attempting to revitalize this organization in order that it may take an active part in supporting the program of the People's Committee.

[redacted] will follow and report further developments and activities of this organization.

Two copies of informant's report are being retained in the New York City Office for information purposes.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY,
SAC

Enc. - 2

cc: 65-10519

EX-15

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Neese
Miss Gandy

67D

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58 FEB 15 1943